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Contributions to the Study of The First Moldavia Issue,

by Kiriac Dragomir, Str. Ghiocei No. 26, 72131 Bucharest, Romania.

As a result of my research in the Romanian archives I can present here new facts of postal history:

1. Regarding the "Atelia Timbrului" of Jassy, where besides the revenue stamps, the first two issues of Moldavia stamps were printed, I would like to make some corrections. It was believed until recently that the Jassy printing shop had only one printing machine and one single worker who "handled the paper with his right hand and the press with his left hand", that the efficiency and the production was low and the press was primarily used to print revenue stamps. The documents in the archives present a totally different picture: a) The printing shop was organized by an engineer from Jassy, named Giuglio Sacchetti. He was entrusted with full power by Prince Grigore Ghica. During the short period of Sept. 3 - Nov. 13, 1855, Sacchetti supervised the execution in Austria and France of the entire inventory necessary to the installation of the printing shop. This shop printed the stamped sheets of paper for preparing documents.

On Jan. 1, 1856, "Atelia Timbrului" started its activity with 22 workers, on the "Strada Mare" (Main Street) of Jassy, with Sacchetti as director.

b) There were 10 printing presses, made by the company of Georg Sigl of Vienna, Austria. Four presses (Nos.6, 7, 8 and 9) installed in room No.1, applied dry (embossed) stamps on sheets of paper. In March 1857, another press was received from Vienna, with "balancer and counter", practical and with high productivity, and was used in the presence of a controller from the Ministry of Finance. The presses Nos.6, 7, 8 and 9 were now used to print "with ink" the revenue stamps.

In the fall of 1860, the Ministry of Finance of Walachia bought from "Atelia Timbrului" of Jassy two of their presses (one for dry stamps, other for inked stamps) for "Atelierul Timbrului" of Bucharest. Later, with these presses the 1862 issue of the "United Principalities" (Scott #11-18) was printed.

c) The cliches were made by J. Bessaignet of Paris, Rue Palais Royal No.128. Eight blank dies were ordered as spares; in 1858 these spares were engraved by Dettmer and used to print both Moldavia issues: the 27, 54, 81, 108, 5, 40 and 80 parale stamps and a 10 parale Porto Gazetei stamp which was never used because of a change in the postal rate for newspapers.

d) On every press, two workers were employed and it is known by their names which ones worked on the dry presses and which ones on the inked presses. One printer handled the press, the other the paper.

e) The paper for the "Timbrul Domnesc" (sheet of paper with a printed or embossed revenue stamp), 460/360 mm in size, was bought from the Leidesdorf company of Vienna, initially 3,000 packs (46 cases).

f) To reduce the size of the paper, the shop got in Dec. 1856 a paper cutting machine.

2. Documents indicate that 24,064 stamps of the first Moldavia issue were printed on four presses (order No.5895 of July 1, 1858). The marginal rows, nos. 1 and 4, were printed on presses "with small distance", and the central rows, nos. 2 and 3, were printed on presses "with large distance". It can be seen on a sheet of the second issue of Moldavia (40 parale) that the marginal rows, nos. 1 and 4 (with a distance of about 11 mm from the sheet margin) are of a different printing compared with the central rows, nos. 2 and 3. This results in two slightly different color types. There are no full sheets of the first Moldavia issue.

The first lot of 5,984 stamps were delivered on July 11, 1858, but they were not put in use, until the delivery of the entire order. The statement that these stamps were issues on July 15, 1858, is incorrect. On July 21, the printing shop delivered the rest of the 18,080 stamps, to a total of 24,064 stamps (6,016 of 27 parale, 10,016 of 54 parale, 2,016 of 81 parale and 6,016 of 108 parale).

These stamps were put on sale on Monday, July 21, 1858, but only in Jassy. The first letters were franked and stamped with a day cancel JASSY MOLDOVA 21/8 and were sent the next day with the morning coach. The mailing register lists seven registered letters (nos. 992-998) and 16 simple letters. A second register, for money, lists 4 registered bags (nos. 911-914). A total of 27 items, deposited on July 21, 1858, were noted as mailed on July 22, 1858. This problem had to be clarified because the catalogues give the wrong date of July 15. The first stamped letters were deposited and cancelled on July 21, 1858, and shipped on July 22, 1858.

Conform a document (no. 1893) of the central post office, the stamps were sent to other cities on Aug. 3, 1858. These stamps could have been sold only the next day. Indeed, on Monday, Aug. 4, 1858, the post offices of some of those cities confirmed the shipment and started to use them.

An exception is the postal station of Tirgu Neamt, which received stamps only on Sept. 1, 1858. Tirgu Neamt did not have a canceller in 1858; the T.NEAMZU MOLDOVA canceller ordered in Aug. 1858 was received only on April 28, 1859. The stamps on the correspondence from Tirgu Neamt were cancelled in the neighbouring Jassy (transit or arrival cancellation).

In conclusion, the first issue of Moldavia was used for the first time on July 21, 1858, in Jassy, on Monday, Aug. 4, 1858, in other 12 post offices and on Monday, Sept. 1, 1858, at the postal station of Tirgu Neamt.

3. In the last decades the usage of the Moldavian stamps was a prefered topic for researchers. The postal archives gave us little information and were completely lacking the data on the situation of Oct. 1858 when the first Moldavia issue was recalled. Unexpectedly, other sources yield some interesting information.

On Jan. 31, 1859, in Jassy, the Minister of Finance Gheorghe Bals, due to some financial irregularities, fired Vasile Grigore, the director of posts and had Niculai Costin the chief cashier under investigation. The event created a great surprise, both employees having prestigious jobs with rich accomplishments.

Depressed, in the night of February 3/4, Costin committed suicide. Members of the investigating commission found him dead, at 6 o'clock in the morning, in a stagecoach, in the post office courtyard. As a first step, the whole inventory of the dead cashier was locked and sealed in a "large iron box". Three weeks later, the investigating commission verifying the cashier's inventory puts its conclusion in a report: "Jurnalul de ancheta din 23 februarie 1859". Very important to us is the inventory of the unused stamps of 27, 54, 81 and 108 parale, returned on Oct. 31, 1858, from the post offices and the mailing and receiving registers for 1858/1859.

	Stamps received				Stamps returned				Stamps sold			
	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.
BAKEU	416	224	160	128	111	-	150	50	305	224	10	78
BERLAD	(640	832	224	320)	258	408	224	268	(328	424	-	52)
BOTUSCHANI	640	160	192	160	565	105	157	99	75	55	35	61
DOROHOJ	224	128	64	64	184	49	59	49	40	79	5	15
FOKSCHANI	224	416	160	224	-	-	21	-	224	416	139	224
FOLTITSCHENI	416	224	160	128	281	59	153	85	135	165	7	43
GALATZ	544	640	160	320	-	-	-	-	544	640	160	320
JASSY	(1248	6048	192	4000)	264	4312	-	2613	(984	1736	192	1387)
MICHALENI	160	128	64	64	142	106	62	53	18	22	2	11
PIATRA	(416	224	160	128)	184	18	119	17	(232	206	41	111)
ROMAN	416	224	160	128	-	32	153	59	416	192	7	69
TEKUTSCH	(224	416	160	160)	-	-	86	-	(224	416	74	160)
T.NEAMZU	(32	128	-	32)	23	113	-	30	(9	15	-	2)
WASLUI	(416	224	160	160)	313	42	123	109	(103	182	37	51)
Total	6016	10016	2016	6016	2325	5244	1307	3432	3691	4772	709	2584
Grand total:	24,064				12,308				11,756			

The discovery of these documents, now kept in the State Archives of Bucharest, helped me clear up the problem.

-For the first time we have found that the stamps were printed in sheets of 32; before, this fact was deducted by calculations. For example in the envelope with the stamps returned from the Birlad post office, the following stamps were found in sheets or detached: "27 parale: 8 sheets a 32 stamps plus 2 detached stamps, total 258 stamps; 54 parale: 12 sheets a 32 stamps plus 24 detached stamps, total 408 stamps; 81 parale: 7 sheets a 32 stamps, total 224 stamps and 108 parale: 8 sheets a 32 stamps plus 12 detached stamps, total 268 stamps".

Some post offices have returned only detached stamps which confirms the hypothesis that they cut them out of sheets when they received them, for easier handling.

Cancel	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	Total	Early cancel	Late cancel
BAKEU	13	8	1	2	24	4/8	28/10
BERLAD	2	10	-	6	18	x/8	27/10
BOTUSCHANI	2	-	-	1	3	6/8	8/8
DOROHOJ	2	3	-	-	5	19/8	24/10
FOKSCHANI	16	32	3	10	61	11/8	24/10
FOLTITSCHENI	-	2	-	2	4	11/8	21/10
GALATZ	19	27	10	20	76	2/9	17/10
JASSY	45	79	3	78	205	29/7	31/10
PIATRA	4	6	2	3	15	12/9	28/10
ROMAN	9	7	-	5	21	4/8	28/10
TEKUTSCH	5	8	-	5	18	15/8	24/10
WASLUI	3	1	-	-	4	18/9	22/10
Unknown	16	11	3	7	37		
TOTAL:	136	194	22	139	491		

Fritz Heimbuchler's inventory table:

		MINT					USED					TOTAL
Inventory made by :	Year	27	54	81	108	Total	27	54	81	108	Total	Mint & Used
René Poncelet	1933	4	5	12	4	25	90	130	16	90	326	351
Eduard Cohen	1950	6	10	16	11	43	66	90	11	78	245	288
Liviu N. Cristea	1958	10	12	26	11	59	89	122	18	109	338	395
Valerian Tebeica	1962	7	9	9	6	31	53	48	12	43	156	187
Onig Tulbendjan	1974	11	16	27	16	70	115	165	25	132	437	507
Fr. Heimbüchler	1978	12	21	30	16	79	136	194	22	139	491	570

For example:

	BACAU	PIATRA	TG.NEAMT
27p.	111	184	23
54p.	-	18	113
81p.	150	119	-
108p.	50	17	30.

The inventory does not give proof that the stamps from BACAU were cut round (Dr. L.N. Cristea), or square or in both ways (Fritz Heimbuchler), and does not clear up a controversy.

-The Galati post office did not return any stamps because they used up their entire stock on Oct. 20, 1858.

-The post offices of Bolgrad, Cahul, Husi and Ismail did not return any stamps. It is concluded that these offices did not receive stamps of the first issue of Moldavia. Correspondence franked with these stamps in these cities was not found. Except the Husi post office, the other three offices did not even have their own canceller until Apr. 5, 1859.

-We have found for the first time that the Jassy post office supplied directly, not only the district and border (Mihaileni) postal bureaus but also the secondary station of Tirgu Neamt.

THE TABLE OF THE STAMP CIRCULATION. In the State Archives of Bucharest there are documents showing the stamp distribution to 8 post offices: Bacau, Botosani, Dorohoi, Focsani, Falticeni, Galati, Mihaileni and Roman. For the rest of the offices the possible deliveries were deducted by calculation. Knowing the number of the returned stamps, I made the included table of the circulation of the first Moldavia stamps, in the period of July 21 - Oct. 31, 1858. The data unatested with documents and resulted by calculation is given in parenthesis.

I would like to express gratitude to the researchers who made inventories of the existing Moldavia stamps. These stamps derive from the 11,756 stamps which resulted after the returned stamps were destroyed, therefore this number represents the entire issue.

Fritz Heimbuchler of Munich, Germany, who has today the largest and the most valuable collection of Moldavian stamps, recently drew up a table with the postmarks of the 491 stamps identified by him:

In contrast to other researchers, Fritz Heimbuchler did not find any item with MICHALENI MOLDOVA cancel (Poncelet identified 2 items) and any item with HUSCH MOLDOVA cancel (Tebeica identified 1 item) but he found three more stamps with FOLTITSCHENI MOLDOVA cancel.

REVIEW:
Album Weeds, Part VI
by Rev. R.B. Earee.

156 pages covering Norway through St. Christopher. This is a reprint of the 1906 edition of Earee's classic work and covers what was known by the author about forgeries up to 1905.

The Romanian section has 49 pages and presents in great detail, the originals and the forgeries of the following stamps: Moldavia, Scott #1-10; Moldavia-Walachia, Scott #11-21; Prince Cuza, Scott #22-27; and Prince Carol, Scott #29-52.

The great value of this work lies in the fact that it describes both the genuine stamp of a certain type, and then, individually, every type of forgery known to the author. For example it describes the genuine 27 parale Moldavia and three known forgeries, the genuine 54 parale Moldavia and seven known forgeries, and so on.

It also gives some indication of the cancels used, if any, on both the genuine stamps and on the known forgeries. It is here that the book contains mistakes. For instance, on page 250, it states simplistically that the postmarks used on the genuine 27 parale stamp are usually red while those on the first type of forgery are blue. This is inaccurate and misleading because it is known that in various towns, different colors of ink were used with the cancelling devices at different times.

Reviews by Peter M. Leibowitz

"Phantom Philately: a Descriptive List of Stamps That Are Not What They Seem", by Frederick J. Melville. 204 pages (reprinted, 1950). This is a reprint of a classic work on phantom issues of the world. Page 167 describes three Romanian phantom (bogus) issues: 1) the famous 120 parale gold stamp of the first Moldavia type; 2) an 1857 Moldavia issue with an inscription translated as follows: "Prince Nicholas Konaki Vogoride, Caimacan of the Principality of Moldavia, 1857"; and 3) a type printed 10 bani black on green stamp with a sailing ship in the center and inscribed "MANGALIA".

The 120 parale, it should be noted, is also described by Earee in his book, Album Weeds.

"Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works" by Varro E. Tyler. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., London 1976. This is an interesting book that presents short but concise descriptions of the backgrounds and activities of 84 well-known philatelic forgers, a number of whom are known to have engaged in the forgery of Romanian stamps and cancellations.

While it is known that Sperati, the Spiro brothers, Fournier, and De Thuin all produced forged Romanian stamps and cancellations, who knows about Engelhardt Fohl's activities with regards to the first two Moldavia issues and the Danube Steam Navigation Company stamps? Or Sigmund Friedl's forgeries of the 5 bani blue and 5 bani pale rose issues of 1876 and 1879, and the 27 and 81 parale Moldavia issues? Or Captain C.M. Moroiu's forgeries of the 1858, 1859 and 1862 issues of Moldavia and Moldavia-Walachia? Tyler's book indicates that such forgeries by the particular forger were made but does not offer any description of same. Reference to the philatelic literature are, however, included but do not appear to be complete.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

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THE UNISSUED CUZA STAMPS OF 1864

Ionut Plaiu, Alee Rotunda No. 1 Bl. Y1B, Sc.1, Apt. 38

In 1864, because the SOCEC lithographic plant was delaying the stamps with the effigy of Prince Cuza, ordered by the Ministry of Finance, Cezar Liebrecht, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, placed a similar order with Wonneberg Lithographers. In December 1864, G. Wonneberg delivered 40,400 of the 2 Parale, 77,200 of the 5 Parale and 82,500 of the 20 Parale stamps. At the same time SOCEC delivered its stamps, but they were rejected by Liebrecht because they came too late. This created a fiery dispute between Steege, the Minister of Finance, and Liebrecht. The problem was solved after an investigation made by the Ministry of Interior; the stamps made by SONEC were accepted and distributed for sale while those made by Wonneberg were deposited in the Ministry of Post's treasury and later sold to dealers. The stamps made by Wonneberg are today know as the *unissued Cuza stamps.*

They were lithographed in sheets of 100 stamps . For the sheets of 2 Parale and 5 Parale stamps, transfer-blocks of five cliches in a row were made. These blocks were repeated three times on the first six rows of the sheet and twice on the seventh row, leaving five empty spaces. These 20 transfer-blocks made up the sheet of 100 cliches and therefore it was not necessary (as in the case of Prince Carol stamps with *sideburns* and those with *beard* later lithographed by Sander) to add additional blocks with cliches cut from other transfer-blocks.

Approximately 100 lithographic stones used to print the Romanian classic stamps have been identified up to now but full identification has not yet been completed.

For the sheets of the 20 Parale stamps transfer-blocks were not used.

2 PARALE

For the 2 Parale sheet, three changes were made from the usual transfer block setting (Fig.1):

(1) in position 15 (row I, column 15), instead of a cliche of type 5, there is one of type 4;

(2) in position 39 (row III, column 9), instead of a cliche of type 4, there is one of type 5;

(3) in position 82 (row VI, column 7), instead of a cliche of type 2, there is one of type 3.

I could not determine the cliche type of the stamp in position 81 (row VI, column 6), which would be expected to be of type 1; but R. Zoscsak and W. Witzleben claimed it to be of type 2.

The distances between stamps, according to Zoscsak and Witzleben are as follows: horizontally: 2mm (with small differences); vertically: 1 2/3-1 4/5 mm; between columns 1 and 2: 2mm and 2-2 1/3 mm between the last five stamps.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
I	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	(4)
II	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
III	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	(5)	5	1	2	3	4	5
IV	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
V	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
VI	1	2	3	4	5	(2)	(3)	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
VII	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5					

Fig. 1 - 2 Parale

CONSTANT TYPE VARIETIES:

Fig. 2 presents the transfer-block characteristics of the 2 parale Cuza stamps (Types 1-5); the arrows point to characteristics found on every stamp of that particular type (Romanian Postage stamp Catalogue '74 by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu).

Besides these transfer-block characteristics, the following characteristics for constant type varieties are found only once in a sheet.

Pos. 1 has the accent mark above the last *A* in ROMANA thickened, appearing as a small spot.

Pos. 23 has the left *Greek border* broken at the bottom and connected with the frame by a round spot.

Pos. 29 has the letter *L* in PARALE interrupted at its corner.

Pos. 45 has a rectangular (1 x 2 mm) break in the *brick wall* under the letter *O* in POSTA.

Pos. 50 has the left exterior frame interrupted at 7.5 mm from the top, at 10 o'clock.

Pos. 62 has an ink clog on the lower left frame, and the lower part of the number *2* is not quite horizontal is bent upwards and its *spur* is blunt.

Pos. 63 has a white spot (0.8 mm) in the medallion's background, at 3 o'clock.

Pos. 90 has half of the leg of the lower-right number *2* missing and the frame lines under this number are interrupted.

Pos. 91 has a dot under the upper-left number *2* near its *spur*, touching the frame line.

On the type 2 stamps of the first row (nos. 2, 7, and 12) the middle horizontal line of the letter *E* in PARALE is missing (On the other *E*s it is shorter). This is not an error, but rather a type variety of the transfer-block.

The 2 Parale stamps each have 77 pearls.

5 PARALE

On the sheet of the 5 Parale stamps there are seven cliche substitutions (Fig. 3):

(1—5) On the first row, the last (3rd) transfer-block has a 3-4-5-1-2 cliche setting instead of the normal 1-2-3-4-5;

(6) In position 20 (row II, column 5), instead of a cliche of type 5, there is one of type 1;

(7) in position 39 (row III, column 9), instead of a cliche of type 4, there is one of type 5.

The horizontal distances between the stamps are usually 1 3/4—1 4/5 mm and seldomly 2mm. Between positions 65 and 66, the distance is 2 1/2 mm. The vertical distances usually are 1 3/4—2 1/2 mm, most of them being 2mm.

The transfer-block characteristics for the 5 Parale Cuza stamps are presented in Fig. 4.

CONSTANT TYPE VARIETIES:

Pos. 1 has the inside frame line thin, almost missing, between 7 and 8 o'clock.

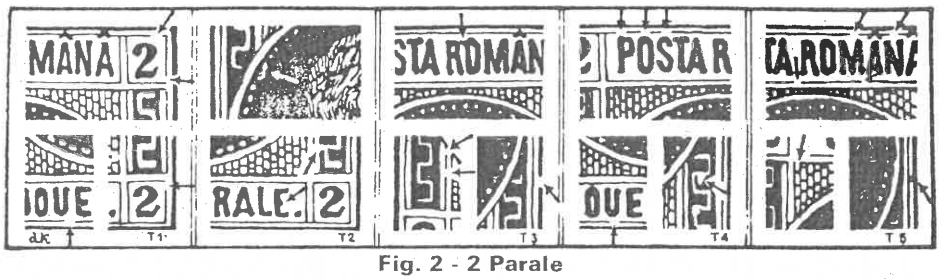

Fig. 2 - 2 Parale

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
I	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	1	2
II	1	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
III	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	5	5	1	2	3	4	5
IV	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
V	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
VI	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
VII	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5					

Fig. 3 - 5 Parale

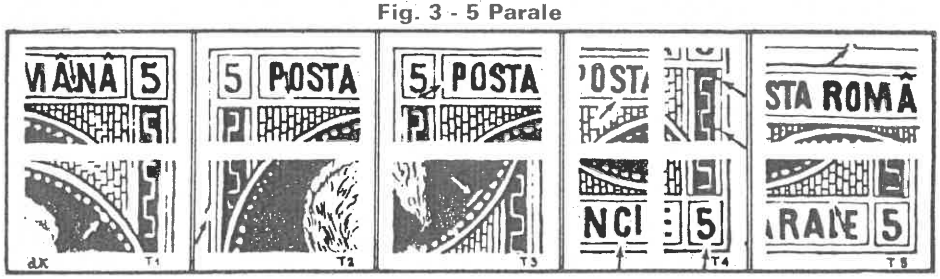

Fig. 4 - 5 Parale

1 3	2 3	3 3	4 3	5 1	6 1	7 1	8 1	9 1	10 1	11 1	12 1	13 1	14 1	15 1
16 3	17 1	18 2	19 3	20 1	21 1	22 1	23 1	24 1	25 1	26 1	27 1	28 1	29 1	30 1
31 3	32 3	33 2	34 2	35 1	36 1	37 1	38 1	39 1	40 1	41 1	42 1	43 1	44 1	45 1
46 3	47 3	48 2	49 2	50 1	51 1	52 1	53 1	54 1	55 1	56 1	57 1	58 1	59 1	60 1
61 3	62 3	63 2	64 1	65 1	66 1	67 2	68 1	69 1	70 1	71 1	72 1	73 1	74 1	75 1
76 3	77 3	78 3	79 1	80 2	81 2	82 2	83 2	84 2	85 2	86 2	87 2	88 2	89 2	90 2
91 2	92 3	93 2	94 2	95 2	96 2	97 2	98 2	99 2	100 2					

Fig. 5 - 20 Parale

Pos. 2 has a white spot under the corner of the back of the neck, retouched by brush.

Pos. 3 has a white spot behind the neck, near 8 o'clock.

Pos. 8 has two white spots, right near the hair, at 10 o'clock.

Pos. 9 has a colored dot on the forehead.

Pos. 11 has the letter *R* in ROMANA interrupted in its middle.

Pos. 16 has a 2 mm spot on the cheek, near the ear.

Pos. 21 has a dot in the white frame, above the letter *R* in ROMANA.

Pos. 37 has a 1 mm long, oblique bar in the background, at 8 o'clock.

Pos. 42 has a small circle in the inside frame line, above the letter *C* in CINCI.

Pos. 44 has a spot in the lower inside frame line, under the letter *C* in CINCI.

Pos. 47 has an enlarged pearl under the letter *R* in ROMANA.

Pos. 54 has two colored dots on the temple.

Pos. 66 has two colored dots in the lower-left part of the inside frame line of the *brick wall*.

Pos 70 has a 0.8 mm spot in the left vertical

frame, at 8 o'clock.
Pos. 71 has the circle broken at 7 o'clock, above the letter *N* in CINCI.
Pos. 76 has a color spot under the letter *M* in ROMANA.
Pos. 86 has an oblique bar in the background, near the circle with pearls, at 9 o'clock.
Pos. 87 has the hair on the forehead extended about 2mm.
Pos. 91 has the right vertical thick frame line broken near the curvature of the number *5* and the lower left meander has almost disappeared.
Pos. 92 has the left vertical thick frame line broken near the number 5.
Pos. 97 has a break in the thick frame line, above the upper-right number *5*.

The Pos. 21 and 86 varieties can be found on only some sheets.

The frame and the cliche of the 5 Parale stamp is slightly different from those of the 2 Parale stamp. The upper cartouche is narrower, the lower is wider. The Greek lines are narrower and the letters are more evenly distributed.

The 5 Parale stamps each have 81 pearls.

20 PARALE

On the 20 Parale stamps, the alignment line for the words POSTA ROMANA is visible above the letters. The lower-left numeral *O* of *20* is connected to the frame by a dot.

For this value no transfer-blocks were used, but the stamps are of three distinctive types, with a very irregular cliche setting:
Type 1 has 2 dots after the word ROMANA;
Type 2 has 1 dot after the word ROMANA;
Type 3 has no dots after the word ROMANA or has some vague traces of retouched dots.

The repetition of these types on the sheet is shown in Fig. 5 and it is: 57 of type 1; 26 of type 2 and 17 of type 3.

The horizontal distances between the stamps a 2—3mm, the shortest distance being between stamps nos. 89 and 90 (2mm), the longest distance being between stamps nos. 77 and 78 (2 1/2 mm on top and 3 mm on the bottom) and between stamps nos. 92 and 93 being 2 4/5 mm. The vertical distances are 2 1/5—2 3/5.

CONSTANT TYPE VARIETIES

Pos. 3 has the letters *CI* of CINCI interrupted.
Pos. 11 has a spot in the lower-right side of the *brick wall.*
Pos. 58 has a retouch in the lower-right side of the Greek border.
Pos. 67 has the letter *D* in DECI broken at the lower-right side and the cartouche line under the letter *E* broken.
Pos. 79 has the upper-right number *2* in 20 without its leg.
Pos. 91—92—93 have a retouch line running upward, cutting all three stamps. The 20 Parale stamps each have 73 pearls.

UNUSUAL CANCELS (part III)

Silbiu Dragomir, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17. 70,268 Bucharest, Romania

DESCHID, EXTER. (Deschiderea Externelor, Translated: Opening of Foreign Mail). Despite all of the research that I did, I could not find any information on the kind of Postal operation where this cancel GARA DE NORD —DESCHID. EXTER. (Northern Railroad Station —Opening of foreign Mail), was used . It could be associated with the BRASOV-DESCHIDEREA RECOMANDATELOR (Presented in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No 1/1978). If more of these items could be drawn on their purpose.

BIROUL INCHIDERII (Bureau of closing). I also could not find the reason for using the IASI II—BIROUL INCHIDERII cancel. It is possible that this cancel was used by a postal bureau on the third shift (the night shift), which had the responsibility for receiving correspondence but without forwarding it during the same shift. This could be something like the DUPA PLECARE (After Departure) cancel. However, this is only a supposition which need be verified at a later date.

OF BALNEAR EFORIE JUD. CONSTANTA (Balneal Eforie office, Constantza county). It seems to be a postal cancel used during the summer season in the seaside balneal—resort station Eforie (today called Eforie—Nord), a branch post office of the Techirghiol post office in Constanta county. It would indicate that such a cancel should be classified among the tourist cancels.

MAMAIA—MEDGIDIA. The association of two localities, located in completely different places does not seem to be justified at the first glance. As far as we know, Mamaia always belonged to the city of Constanta located 7 km from Medgidia. Also, we do not have any information of a railroad ambulatory office on the Mamaia-Ovidiu-Palas-Medgidia line and the cancel's text or design does not indicate this possibility. We would like to hear opinions from other specialists.

EDITORS NOTE: I also have found a cancel, double circle type, with the text: *TIMISOARA 2-8.6.60-7, DESCHIDERE.* The last digit on the date line *7* indicates the time when this cancel was applied. Because it indicates 7 o'clock in the morning, the word DESCHIDERE could mean *opening* of the post office.

Also, in our No. 1/1978 bulletin, Silviu Dragomir presented a cancel with the text: *TARGU—JIU 22 AUG 938 POSTA USOARA* , and questioned the meaning of POSTA USOARA (light mail). In bulletin No. 2/1978, I presented another cancel found on an Air Mail cover with the text: *RADAUTI 21 JUN 949 POSTA USOARA,* and I expressed my opinion that POSTA USOARA is related to the way this letter was mailed; AIR MAIL. Now, I have found a postal card sent by surface mail with a similar cancel, and the text reads: *RADAUTI 18 AUG 42. 13 POSTA USOARA CURSA II.* I think my hypothesis was wrong.

Instead of this kind of guess work, I would suggest to the researchers residing in Romania to try to find answers to some of their postal history questions, right from the Ministry of Posts. Their archives should have instructions. memoranda and guidelines regarding the making and using of postal cancelers. Almost all countries provide postal manuals for the use of postal employees and these could be a source of such information.

It is possible however, that the Ministry of Posts cannot furnish information on their own activity. Then, we should look for other sources and here is why. Recently, Don Heller, an American researcher, sent me a copy of *Chapter IV, Postal and Related Services* from *Romania Basic Handbook* published as Secret Data, Nov. 1943, Ministry of Economic Warfare, London. Despite the fact that in 1943, Romania was at war against Great Britain and the Allies, and the normal flow of information from Romania was very much hampered, a very detailed book had been published in London, England, on what was happening in war-torn Romania, in the enemy camp. In 1943, I lived in Romania and I know that much of the information contained in that book was not available to the average citizen.

Therefore, if answers cannot be found in Romania, then we should look for them elsewhere.

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R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1983, VII, nr. 3.

A ROMANIAN POSTAL DOCUMENT FOUND IN FRANCE

Dr. L.N. Cristea, Tengstrasse 20, apt. 304, 8000 Munich 40, West Germany.

Thirty years ago, while doing research in the state archives as well as private ones in Paris, France, Mr. Alexandru Ciorănescu (now a professor at the Santa Cruz de Teneriffe University) came across a small off-white 130 by 79 mm. card showing a strip of three sketches. In red, blue and yellow colored ink (respectively, from left to right), they portray Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza of the United Romanian Principalities, and bear denominations of 20, 5 and 2 Par. Each measures 24 by 19 mm. The card bears the manuscript text:

"Model alâturat la referatul Dlui Ministru din Intru cu Nr. .....sketches..... către Consiliul de Ministri"

(Sketch annexed to the report of Minister of Home Affairs, (under) No. .....sketches..... for the council of Ministers)

In the card's lower left corner, about half of a red wax seal appears reading: "(Adm) INISTRATIA GENERALA A TELE (grafului). Furthermore, the back of the card displays traces of red sealing wax on its four corners, showing that this card had at one time been affixed to some other item. Undoubtedly, the drawings were part of a document submitted to the Government for discussion by and approval of the Postmaster General.

Prof. Ciorănescu found this document among papers concerning the period of Union of the two Romanian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. He estimates that the drawings date back to the 1863-64 period. Many years ago, research students of Romania's Postal History established that a drawing was missing from postal authority files in Bucharest. They assumed, quite rightly, that it must have been a sketch of the suggested new stamps, the first to portray Prince Cuza. It was also known that the Romanian government had decided to get these stamps printed abroad. The Romanian diplomatic mission in Paris was entrusted with the necessary inquiries. It is very likely that these sketches were sent from Bucharest to Paris to illustrate what the Romanian authorities expected.

The drawings were obviously prepared by a non-Romanian. The inscription "POSTA ROMANE" should have read "POSTA ROMANA" (as is made clear by the correction in ink). A second indication of the artist's foreign origins is the spelling "Doa" and "Doa-deci" instead of "Doua" and "Doua-deci". The latter orthographic errors were left uncorrected. The "POSTA ROMANA" inscription con-

stituted a significant public challenge to Turkey (Ottoman Empire), being akin to an official declaration of sovereignty by the new United Romanian Principalities.

Val. Tebeica's "The First Romanian Postage Stamps, 1858-1865" (Editura Meridiane, Bucharest, 1962) gives some details about the Paris negotiations. Obviously, they took too long and delayed Romania's postal requirements. The Bucharest postal authorities thus decided to order the stamps at home. The Postmaster General, Cezar Librecht, got in touch with the Wonneberg Lithographic firm, while the Ministry of Finance, under Steege, placed an order with the firm of Socec & Co. Wonneberg delivered first. When Librecht was about to place these stamps in circulation, the Minister of Finance threatened a governmental crisis should the Socec stamps not be accepted. The clash between the Postmaster General and the Finance Minister was solved to Mr. Steege's satisfaction. Thus Socec's issue was put into use. Wonneberg's issue remained in the care of the postal authorities and has ever been known as the "unissued Cuza stamps". The issued stamps, from Socec & Co., came into use on January 21st, 1865. They remained valid until August 1966, six months after Cuza's abdication, and three months after Prince Carol's assumption of power. The Cuza stamps were distributed outside of Bucharest between January 30 and December 22, 1865. A detailed study of this distribution by K. Dragomir, was published in "Filatelia", No. 8/1980.

Comparing the drawings with the issued Cuza stamps, we note that the Socec stamps reproduce all of the sketches' main features:

a) The head of the Prince is enclosed by an oval, and faces right.

b) The denominations are placed in all four corners.

c) The inscriptions read:
POSTA (vertically at left);
ROMANA (vertically at right);
the value in letters (on top);
FRANCO (below).

These are some obvious differences:

1) The portrait background is not lined, but is solid colored;

2) The spandrels between the oval and the internal frame lines display vertical background lines, instead of being cross-hatched.

3) The horizontal and vertical outer cartouches show an irregular background on the 2 Par., a regular rhombic one on the 5 and 20 Par.

4) "ROMANA" reads upward, not downward.

There is no point in comparing the sketches with the unissued stamps. Wonneberg's design utilized another concept. Some similarity with the Dulos Paris project, of the "Maison Aumoitte-Stern" essays, can be noted. These essays reached Bucharest in February 1866, about the same time as Cuza's forced abdication. However, the colors for the sketches (red, blue and yellow orange) were also used on both the issued and unissued stamps.

Which artist drew the sketches? For the time being, I am inclined to speculate that some person within Socec & Co. prepared them. This firm's main lithographer, Mr. Sander, a foreign craftsman, was later associated with printing the issued stamps. Attributing the drawings to him would also explain the slight, but revealing orthographical mistakes mentioned above. Another argument in favor of an artist from Socec & Co. is the preference the Ministry of Finance gave to this firm. Although Librecht's first letter to this Ministry made the point that the Prince's effigy was more flattering on the Wonneberg designs, this agency went ahead and awarded the contract to Socec.

Prof. Ciorănescu has thus discovered the missing document from the postal archives, which the Government had sent to Paris in order to secure the printing of the first "POSTA-ROMANA" stamps. This is the oldest drawing we know of any Romanian postage stamp. Eduardo Cohen, who authored, "Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbres-Poste de Roumanie" (Lisbon, Portugal, 1945), did not know of these drawings. As they are the oldest sketches extant, we can be sure they would have been the first to be listed in his remarkable work had he known of their existence.

Review

The Post Rider-Yamshchik

Issue No. 10 (May 1982) of this research bulletin of The Canadian Society of Russian Philately (P.O. Box 5722 Station "A," Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P2) contains, among its many other interesting articles, two excellent studies which should be of great interest to Romanian specialists.

"Transnistria Under the Roumanian Administration," by C.M. Trevers, 23½ pages long, gives a great deal of information regarding the Romanian posts in Transnistria, the use of the Transnistria stamps, as well as the postmarks used in conjunction with them. The article is richly illustrated with both covers and markings.

"A Look at Northern Bukovina Postal History," by Dr. Robert Bell and Andrew Cronin (the editor of this publication), 18½ pages long, contains five well documented chapters:

I. The Austrian Administration Until the End of 1918.

II. The First Romanian Administration: 1919-June 22, 1940.

III. The First Soviet Administration: June 22, 1940-July 5, 1941.

IV. The Second Romanian Administration: July 5, 1941-March 1944.

V. The Current Soviet Administration: March 1944 to Date.

This study illustrates many covers, postcards, stamps and postmarks and shows large, detailed maps. It presents a useful list of localities with their Austrian, Romanian and Ukranian names.

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Canceled-to-order items

REPRINTED FROM LINN'S STAMP NEWS MARCH 7, 1983

QUESTION: I've encountered a number of foreign stamps that appear to be mint (fully gummed), but they have cancel marks in the corners. Are these stamps mint, used, precanceled or what? How does their value compare with more typical mint or used copies?

ANSWER: The stamp you describe is a typical CTO (canceled-to-order) stamp.

CTOs are mint stamps that are imprinted with simulated postmarks (or portions thereof) by the issuing authorities to prevent postal use. They can then be offered to collectors in "mint" condition at considerable discounts from face value.

They may be sold by the governments themselves, or through their normal philatelic agents. Different countries may handle CTO sales in different manners, but their agencies should know the score.

Since they are no longer valid for postage, CTOs are not mint. In fact, most are worth less than genuinely used copies.

The illustrated Romanian stamp is but one example, typical of CTOs from various places (especially Eastern Europe). The note in Scott's catalog about "Canceled to Order" reads as follows in the Romanian listing (and similarly in other country listings):

"Canceled sets of new issues have long been sold by the government. Prices in the second ('used') column are for these canceled-to-order stamps. Postally used copies are worth more."

The CTO cancellation is often printed in conjunction with the actual stamp-printing operation, even on the same presses. Such issues are never intended to serve as postage; they are produced solely for sale to collectors.

Canceled-to-order (CTO) stamps are otherwise mint copies that have been imprinted with a simulated portion of a postmark to render them postally invalid and permit their sale at discount prices to the stamp trade, like this example from Romania (note marking in upper left corner).

Their philatelic and postal history value is questionable, although they are relatively inexpensive and inoffensive for beginners and collectors with limited budgets. Besides, their condition is often hard to match among postally used copies.

Collectors should be aware of the existence of CTOs, and their intended audience. However, some stamps are readily available only as CTOs, so they should not be condemned unconditionally.

Defrauding the Posts

The August 1982 issue of "Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal," contains a "Letter to the Editor" which should be of interest to Romania collectors. Its writer reports that his pen-pal in Romania sometimes franks his letters with stamps cut in half and subsequently rejoined, and asks if anybody has any information regarding this situation. The publication's editor expresses his opinion that the pen-pal found a novel way (at least for Romania) to defraud the postal authorities. It seems that this Romanian pen-pal has bought cancelled-to-order (C.T.O.) postage stamps, each neatly cancelled on one of corner only, has then cut each exactly in half and has ultimately affixed the uncancelled pairs of halves on covers, using them for postage.

C.T.O. Romanian stamps can be bought in Romania at about 10-20% of their face value, and probably less for definitives. By cutting them vertically or horizontally, eliminating the obliterated halves, thus creating a whole "mint" stamp out of two C.T.O. ones, for about 20-40% of its value, the pen-pal is greatly reducing his franking expenses, meanwhile cheating the postal authorities of their revenues.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

R. Phil. Stud., 1982, VI, nr. 3.

strator which has the same meaning and a signature. The card, mailed on Oct. 29, 1943, also bears the common "CENZURAT LUGOJ 18" marking in a rectangular frame.

VĂZUT DE NOI

Administrator

It is hoped that other researchers will report on censor markings from other prisons, penal colonies, labor camps, etc. and that these efforts will contribute to the general study of Romanian censor markings.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On some postal cards mailed between June and Dec. 1952, by a convict, probably a political detainee, sentenced to hard labor and working at the Danube-Black Sea Canal, I found an administrative marking evidently used as a censor marking. It consists of a 27.5 x 27.5 mm. frame and a text reading: "DIRECTIUNEA GENERALĂ A PENITENCIARELOR Nr. 41 EXPEDIȚIE" (General Directorate of the Penitentiaries No. 41 Dispatch) and was applied in blue ink.

All of these cards were written in pencil, and all have almost the same content - the convict is asking his wife to write him, visit him and send him food, money and clothing.

The convict's mail was strictly censored. But, instead of applying a censor marking, an administrative marking of the labor camp's mail dispatch service was used to indicate such an operation.

New Book on "Austrian Posts in Romania"

Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, author of the excellent monograph "The Postal History of Sibiu", has recently finished an original and well researched manual and catalogue (in Romanian language) about the Austrian posts on Romania's territory. The first chapter of this book, about 100 of its total 325 pages, explains how the catalogue should be used and gives the historical background of the area. The following three chapters describe: A. the prestamp period and its postal markings; B. the postal markings used during the period after stamps became available; and C. special markings such as consular postal markings, fieldpost markings and postal markings of the Lloyd and D.D.S.G. companies.

After its publication, we will review the book and try to obtain a few copies for interested members.

The History of an "Essay"

Don Heller
206 West Fairmount Ave, State College, Pa 16801.

In 1865 the French engraver J. Dulos submitted some essays to the Romanian Government for the new Prince Cuza stamps (figure 1). Although very well executed, their delivery was severely delayed and the essays arrived just as Cuza was forced to abdicate.

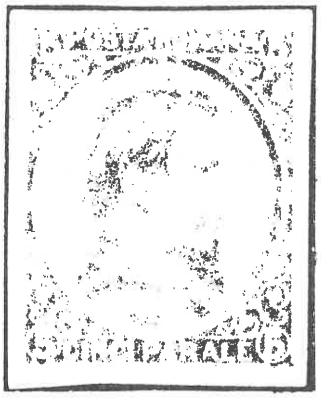

Fig. 1. the original essay

The Dulos essays are fairly well documented except for one aspect, the "type refait" as it is called by Eduardo Cohen (Contributions a l'etude de essais des timbres-poste de Roumanie, Lisbon, 1945, p. 23). (figure 2). "Refait" is the past tense of the French verb "refaire", which literally means "to do again." Colloquially, "refaire" means "to swindle." The "type refait" is indeed a swindle, one of a variety of stamp-like items made from nineteenth century philatelic illustrations.

Fig. 2. the "type refait"

In September 1867 the stamp journal Le Timbre Poste, published by the dealer J.B. Moens of Brussels, began a serialized article "Stamps of Moldavia and Romania," by Dr. Magnus, pseudonym for Dr. J.A. Legrand. The February 1868 installment illustrated, for the first time that I was able to discover, the Dulos essay. Figure 3 is taken from The Stamp Collectors Magazine, a British journal which serialized a translation of the article. As can be seen, the illustration has a new appearance and differs in a clear way from the original design. No attempt was made to have an exact copy, only to illustrate.

Fig. 3. Moens illustration, 1868

During the nineteenth century there was considerable cooperation among European stamp journal publishers, and no one took the effort to make a new illustration when Moens could be borrowed. Hence Moens illustration found its way into other journals and dealers price lists. Moens himself was the largest European dealer for many years. In time the quality of the illustration deteriorated.

I note, for example, use of the Moens Dulos illustration in the following additional publications:

a) Arthur Maury's catalog, Paris, 1868 - excellent condition, as for figure 3;

b) Moens catalog for 1884 - a photo could not be obtained, but the illustration shows some damage to the oval behind

Fig. 4. Moens illustration, 1892

the head, though not as extensive as in figure 4. The vertical line at right is broken. The line over the O in ROMANA is not broken;

c) Moens catalog for 1892 - figure 4;

d) the Romanian journal Timbrofilul of January 1893, published by the notorious Capt. C.M. Moroiu - figure 5;

Fig. 5. Timbrofilul illustration, 1893

e) the German journal Der Philatelist of December 15, 1900, in an article "Probedruck, Essais, Proofs," by A. Reinheimer - figure 6.

Fig. 6. Der Philatelist illustration, 1900

Comparison of figure 2, the "type refait," and figures 3-6 shows that the Moens illustration was used to make a new variety of the Dulos essay. I would venture to say that this variety was not known before 1893, based on the deteriorating condition of the illustrations. While Reinheimer does not make explicit mention of the variety in the above article, he does list color and paper varieties not recorded by Cohen or myself on the original. Reinheimer did make a distinction between the two types in his book Kurzgefasste Beschreibung der Essays-Sammlung von Martin Schroeder (Leipzig, 1903, p. 34, "... sehr feine Abzuge, .. . In demselben Typus, aber weniger feiner Ausfuhrung: ..."). Schroeder's collection was formed in the years 1893-1902. The "type refait" was also known in 1913 to G.B. Duerst, a British collector who wrote "Die Essais von Rumanien" in a publication of the Berliner Philatelisten Klub.

Can we establish who made the "type refait"? Probably not, but consider the splotch in the border behind Cuza's head. As shown in the catalogs, this damage is not seen in 1868, shows slightly in 1884 and is fully pronounced in 1892. In both figure 4 and 6 the upper border of the splotch is thick and dark. In both figures 2 and 5 the border is thinned out, as though an attempt had been made to remove it. This seems to point to Moroiu as the manufacturer.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that there are other stamp-like reproductions of Moens illustrations. In my own collection are copies of the Moldavian Bulls, the 2 parale Wonneberg printing of the Cuza stamp, on laid paper, and the Kustendje-Czernavoda local post. It is also possible to tie the Wonneberg copy to the January 1893 issue of Timbrofilul.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

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Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

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A Little Known Hungarian Post in Romania

Lászlo Erős, Str. Horia No. 19, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

I present here a pair of the Hungarian newspaper tax stamps (Scott #PR 1) issued in 1868, obliterated with a Hungarian single circle type postal marking, about 25.5 mm. in diameter, with its text reading "M. K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL A." (Royal Hungarian Post Office Predeal A.) and dated on three lines "84 DEC 12".

Predeal, during that period, was a border point between Romania and Austro-Hungary, on Romanian territory. At first I believed that this to be an ordinary border post office. However the fact that its postmark obliterated newspaper tax stamps, which after 1867 (when the Hungarian Posts became independent) were cancelled only upon arrival (to accelerate shipping and handling) suggested a different situation.

The explanation appears in Vol. VI of "The Monograph of Hungarian Stamps", in the chapter describing Hungarian Posts abroad. In 1881, in accord with an agreement reached between Romania and Hungary, a Hungarian post office, with Hungarian personnel and with equipment identical to that used in Hungary, was established in Predeal. This post office operated there for almost a quarter of a century. The Monograph quotes the postal ordinance of May 24, 1881 as follows: "At the international railway station in Predeal (Romania), on April the 1st of this year, a royal Hungarian post office was established, which handles the sorting of letters and parcels addressed to Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria, those arriving from the aforementioned countries, as well as receives and delivers official shipments. Private mail adressed to Predeal has to be transferred to the Romanian post office of that city, and thus has to be franked by the rate for Romania."

This Hungarian post office ceased operations on April 28, 1904. According to the Monograph, besides the marking presented here, a similar one without the letter "A" was also used in Predeal, and later on, two others of a different type were used: large circle, upper and lower spandrels shaded and with the royal Hungarian crown.

It would be desirable if researchers in Bucharest could find in the State Archives the corresponding Romanian text of the agreement which established the Hungarian post office in Predeal.

R. Phil. Stud., 1978, II, m.3

THE PRINCE CUZA STAMPS

by Dr. L. N. CRISTEA, TENGSTRASSE 20, apt. 304, 8000 MUNICH 40, West GERMANY,
and FRITZ HEIMBÜCHLER, BOSETTISTRASSE 9, 8000 MUNICH 60, West GERMANY.

INTRODUCTION. The Prince Cuza stamps of Romania more than a century after their issue remain a fairly common stamp, especially mint, or in near-mint condition. There are good multiples about and even sheets (intact or reconstituted of the top value) which facilitates a very attentive study.

In the last three years new data were discovered, by research in the Romanian State Archives, as to the distribution of the stamps, the postal organization during their circulation and postmarks.

This issue circulated between 22 January 1865 and the 31 July 1866. The issue included 3 values: 2 Parale - for Printed Matter - in yellow/orange/ochre; 5 Parale - for Loco Letters - in Light to deep blue; 20 Parale - for ordinary inland letters up to 15 gr. - in scarlet to deep red.

The paper used for this issue varied somewhat: ordinary white, greyish, yellowish, bluish. Laid paper white and yellowish.

The most common stamp of the issue is the 20 Par. This stamp was issued from two different plates: 192 to the sheet - with wide horizontal gutters, identical to the 2 and 5 Par. stamps and 200 to the sheet, with narrower horizontal gutters. The first plate stamps, used or un-used in multiples are rarer. Very few multiples of the first plate survived.

The low values of 2 and 5 Par. are very much rarer in used condition. Their postmarks have been forged in great number. The 2 Par. on newspaper-wraps or printed-matter are very rare indeed. The 5 Par. on local letters are equally rare. They can be found in multiples on letters and postal-receipts which constitute rare items.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE CUZA REIGN. On the basis of the Congress of Paris of 1856 (which put an end to the Crimean War 1853/54) The Romanian Principality of MOLDAVIA recovered the three Southern Counties of CAHUL (KAHUL), BOLGRAD and ISMAIL, annexed by Russia in 1812.

The PARIS CONFERENCE of 1858, which completed the work of the 1856 Conference, allowed the formation of the UNITED PRINCIPALITIES OF MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA, but on condition that they would be ruled by SEPARATE Princes, Governments and Assemblies. The only COMMON LINK was going to be a "CENTRAL COMMISSION", set up in the frontier town of FOCŞANI (Fokschani), as a kind of co-ordinating body for the two Danubian Principalities.

Events moved quickly and in January 1859 Moldavia elected a new Prince in the person of Colonel Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the former "pircalab" (prefect of Covurlui County, capital: Galați /Galatz/). A few days later the same man was also elected to the throne of Wallachia. Thus a PERSONAL UNION was established, which was against the letter and the spirit of the PARIS CONFERENCE. Both Principalities remained also under the nominal protection of the Ottoman Empire.

The "fait accompli" and the firm determination of the two Romanian lands to remain united, forced the hand of the Great Powers, and in December 1861 this union was officially recognized when Prince Cuza was accepted as "Head of the United Principalities".

Soon afterwards the CENTRAL COMMISSION in Focşani was disbanded, the two governments and assemblies merged and BUCUREŞTI (Bucharest) made the capital of the united country.

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CUZA PERIOD. The postal development of the two principalities differed greatly, because of international events. Moldavia had already issued postage stamps (the famous "Moldavian Bulls") in July 1858 and all postal facilities had been nationalized as from January 1st, 1852. The Postal and Telegraphic services had been re-organized with the help of Austrian Officials, "borrowed" from Lemberg - at that time part of the Austrian Empire. Wallachia had no postage-stamps and its mail and passenger services were, under government supervision, in the hands of Private Contractors.

The mail for abroad was entirely in the hands of foreign Consular Postal facilities (Austrian, Russian, French, Greek and possibly English). The Austrian and Russian facilities were the most used and more reliable.

With the Personal-Union under Prince Cuza the Postal Administration was entrusted, in August 1860, to the Ministry of Finance. A unified postal tariff was adopted for both Principalities; on May 1st, 1862 this tariff came into force and identical postage-stamps should have been brought into use.

The Stamp-Printing Office (Atelia Timbrului) had meanwhile been moved to Bucharest. It

started its work in Bucharest on April 1st 1862. It was under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Finance.

The Postal and Telegraphic Services were united under a new management DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ A TELEGRAFELOR ȘI A POȘTELOR by Decree 1093 of August 29th 1864. Its first Director-General was a Belgian, a personal friend of Prince Cuza, Cezar Liebrecht.

A Decree of December 18th 1864, in order to bring the Principalities in closer ties with European countries, introduced the Gregorian Calender (instead of the old Julian), which meant that as from January 1st 1865 all documents, including postal markings, were brought up to date: January 1st 1865 became January 13th 1865. There are no postal cancellations, not even on stampless covers, between the last day of 1865 and 13.1.1865. This detail is very important.

A new postal tariff had been adopted on December 5th, 1864, which came into force on January 13, 1865.

Loco-Letters:	5 Parale	
Ordinary Letters:	20 Parale	(for 15 grams)
Printed matter:	2 Parale	(for 15 grams)
Registration fee:	20 Parale	
Return-Receipt:	20 Parale	

This new tariff was publicised in the BULETINUL TELEGRAFO-POSTAL Nr.1 of January 10th, 1865. Further details were gived in the Circular 3939.

The Central postal administration had under its authority the following categories of postal offices:

1) Postal-Offices in the chief towns of the counties
2) Telegraphic-Postal Stations
3) Custom-Postal Bureaux
4) Rural postal bureaux
5) Passenger Relay Postal facilities (21.8.1865)
6) Sub-Post Offices in Bucharest (13.8.1865).

THE CUZA STAMPS. In order to signify the political development of the United Principalities, it was proposed that new stamps should be issued with the effigy of the Prince and the inscription: Posta Romana. These were considered as being the outside indication that the new state considered itself sovereign.

The first official step was a Decree 1347 of October 12th, 1864. The day after, on October 13th, it was proposed that the stamps should be ordered in Belgium. There was some move in this direction but the essays submited have not been yet found. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, at the request of the Ministry of Finance, made new inquiries in Paris. Two foreign suppliers were contacted: a) Albert Barré and b) Maison Aumoitte-Stern. They both submitted essays and financial terms. The essays exist in a great variety of colors. The Ministry accepted in principle the offer of Maison Aumoitte-Stern, but the negotiations lasted too long and meanwhile the Ministry of Finance and the Direction of the Telegraph and Post in Bucharest had to prepare in a hurry a new issue of stamps. The Direction got in touch with Wonneberg (who quoted 10 lei for 1000 stamps) and the Ministry of Finance with Socec and Co. (Who quoted 8 lei for 1000 stamps). The order was placed by the Ministry and lithographer Sanders - who worked with Socec and Co. started his work immediately. Liebrecht - the Director General of the Telegraph and Posts took delivery of the stamps from Wonneberg and tried to put them into use. But the Minister of Finance, Steege, complaint to the Prime Minister and managed to get the Sanders stamps accepted and distributed to the Postal Direction.

Thus we have an "un-issued" Cuza issue - prepared and printed by Wonneberg - in sheets of 100 stamps, using for the first time in Romania's stamp printing a Tranfer-Block of 5, for the 2 and 5 Parale stamps and an uncertain number of transfers for the 20 Parale value. As these stamps were not accepted for use they remained in the following stocks:

2 Parale (yellow to bistre)	40.400 stamps
5 Parale (shades of blue)	77.200 stamps
20 Parale (shades of red)	82.500 stamps.

The Maison Aumoitte-Stern continued its negotiations during most of 1865 and on October 27th 1865 submitted essays of the 5 Parale stamp. On February 6th 1866 it sent 4 essays of each of the three values. This company had conceived sheets of 150 stamps, using Transfer-Blocks of 5. Thus 30 blocks

formed a sheet (15 hor. rows of 10 stamps each). On February 12th 1866 all these discussions and the possible order were cancelled, as Cuza was forced to abdicate and thus the stamps, an engraving by J. Dulos, were never printed, though from an artistic point of view they were finer even as the Wonneberg issue.

Once the Sanders stamps were imposed by the Government, the State Printing Office made the following deliveries:

	2 Par.	5 Par.	20 Par.
23. I.1865	52.032	108.480	102.912
31. I.1865	-	-	76.800
9.II.1865	48.000	76.800	268.800
12.IV.1865	192.000	-	-
11. X.1865	-	-	297.624
10.XI.1865	117.312	214.848	349.800
Total:	409.344	400.128	1.095.936

From the value of 5 Par. 768 were not put into use because of their "poor state".

As it was mentioned before, the sheets were composed of 192 stamps in 16 rows of 12 stamps each. But this arrangement made the accounting difficult and in October 1865 the 20 Parale value was printed in sheets of 200 stamps. To the old sheet another 8 stamps were added in the top right corner of the sheet, leaving thus 4 empty spaces in the top left corner.

For the 2 and 5 Parale stamps were used just one transfer, from the original die (frame), while for the 20 Parale two transfers were prepared, which follow each other regularly throughout the sheet. The 8 transfers added to the second 20 Parale plate followed the same pattern. Thus we have type A, (Oval of Effigy touching the frame) followed by type B (Oval of Effigy NOT touching the frame). There are NO VERTICAL pairs of mixed types. In Scott Type is like B and type II is like A.

In order to distinguish between the 20 Par. stamps of the first and second plate, the easiest guide is the with of the horizontal gutters: For plate A the gutters are 3.75-4.75 mm wide; plate B presents gutters of 3.00-3.50 mm. Of course all 20 Parale stamps used up to the end of October 1865 belong to plate A as the distribution of the plate B sheets started on November 7th 1865 only. (The Ministry of Finance had received them, from the printers, on September 9th, 1865.

It should be pointed out that the frame design of the three values is different. The 2 Par. presents in the two side spandrels (in which the words POSTA ROMANA appear) a very fine inter-crossing of fine lines. The 5 Parale has a dot in the middle of each square plus a line at the crossing of the fine lines. In the 20 Parale stamp the line appears at the intercrossing, but there are no dots in the middle of the squares. There are also slight differences between the design of the 20 Par. value on plate A and plate B.

THE PAPER OF THE CUZA ISSUE. All three values are known on "Wove Paper", which goes from white thin to white thicker, greyish, slightly yellowish porous, and light blue. On bluish paper are known only 2 Parale and 20 Parale.

The "Laid Paper" has only been found for the 2 lower values - 2 and 5 Parale. The laid paper for the 5 Parale value is a rarer stamp than on wove paper. The colour of the laid paper is mostly white.

THE MAIN VARIETIES. Given the great number of stamps printed, in a very short time, it is surprising to find that there are only minor varieties.

2 Parale: - wove paper - . One of the transfers of the plate did not take properly, or was damaged during transfer to the stone. As a result the top right figue "2" appears as a "Z". According to the Austrian publication DIE POSTMARKE this variety appears on stamp 36 of the sheet, which means at the end of the third horizontal row. One should be able to find it with sheet margin to the right. But this

remark is put in doubt by the existence of a strip (in a Munich collection) where this variety is not the end stamp.

On the laid paper stone a considerable scratch has affected two stamps, situated in the vertical rows 7 and 8. It starts under the right top figure 2, cuts through the spandrel frames and the letter "R" in ROMANA, touches slightly the letter "O", turns right through vertical frame-lines and then reaches the stamp on right. Here it affects the letter "P" of POSTA. The foot, of the figure "2" in the left lower corner, is sliced in two.

5 Parale: - wove paper - : The main variety is a series of "double prints". When the two prints are very close, the details appear blurred and the stamp looks bluish.

20 Parale: The second stone, of the 200 stamps to the sheet, presents, on a type II stamp, a deep scratch. It starts under the letter "T" in POSTA and going in a south-east direction, touches the neckline of the effigy.

There are many minor breaks in the frame lines, letters and effigy, but they are printing and not constant varieties. There are pa- per folds which I have seen on 2 and 20 Parale stamps.

THE POSTMARKS ON THE CUZA STAMPS. First Day was 22 Jan. 1865. Last Day (known so far) is 31 Jul. 1866, which is over 5 months after the abdication of Prince Cuza.

In order to simplify the description of the postmarks to be found on Cuza stamps I have adopted the numbering of Grigore Racoviceanu, which is also accepted by the latest ROMANIAN STAMP CATALOGUE OF 1974.

Here now a short list:

B-1	Moldova small postmark
B-2	Moldova large postmark
B8-B10	Postmark with a star
B-11	Simple ornament
B14-B19	Elaborate ornament
B-3	FRANCO/town
B-?	Post. Succ. No3, No4, No4, No5.
B-12	Single trellis
B-14	Square with trellis (Grătar Domnesc 27.I-28.2.65)
C-7	RECOMANDAT
C-11	DUPA PLECARE
C-15	FRANCO
E-3	Rural Post Bureaux
E-4	" " "

The postmarks "PP" or "PD" have never been found on Cuza stamps, neither have there been found the "B-6" and "B-7" postmarks, which is surprising.

A collection of letters, and receipts with the 20 Parale stamp is very gratifying and rewarding. There are some postmarks which are rather rare, as is the case with the Sub-Post-Offices of Bucharest, of the three Bessarabian counties, the Custom-Postal Bureaux and those associated with the Austrian Postal Services, for the conveying of the mail to destinations abroad.

Review: MICHEL GANZSACHEN KATALOG, EUROPA 1978, RUMÄNIEN.

(MICHEL, Postal Stationery Catalogue, Europe 1978, Romania).

Published in Germany, 774 pages, retail price in the USA $35.95. The Romanian section has 50 pages (H&G has 57) and covers all postal stationeries issued till 1974 (H&G goes to 1969). In many instances, Michel illustrates the entire item, not only a portion of it or the printed stamp as H&G does. While H&G goes chapter by chapter, Michel goes more or less chronologically, mixing postal cards (marked with P), wrappers (S), letter cards (K), money orders (A), telegram forms (TB), postal checks (AS), envelopes (U), official notes (DU, DP), postal receipts (ES), air mail envelopes (LU), registred envelopes (EU) and parcel post forms (AZ).

The items are assessed (in German currency) much below the American market prices but the catalogue is a good work, perfectly usable even by those who don't understand German.

It can be questioned why a 1978 catalogue covers only items issued till 1974.

R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, nr 2.

ON THE LITHOGRAPHED ISSUES OF 1866-1872

by MIHAIL POPOVICI, Str. Chopin No. 8, sc. C, et. 11, apt. 47, 71454, Bucharest, Romania

A synthesis of the contributions made by researchers like Birnabach, Dorning-Bechton, Poncelet, Wilson and others to the study of the Romanian issues of 1866-72 has not yet been made. Ed. Cohen, one of the researchers of the Romanian classics, wrote to me on May 8, 1961 regarding the 1866-72 lithographed issues: *"The studies made abroad during the years are very interesting but naturally, I don't want to say that all the problems were exhausted and solved. The work of Wassermann and Frenkel published in 1898 is today obsolete and outdated by other studies, more recent and more complete. I think that presently the best work which has to be quoted by every collector of Romanian stamps is the one of Rene Poncelet, published in a long series of articles in "Philateliste Belge" in 1932-36".*

Furthermore, Ed. Cohen, considered that the most complete study of the transfer blocks was that by H. Birnbach, published as a booklet in Berlin, in 1933, containing enlarged and well done drawings with all of the characteristic marks necessary to determine the various types that make up the transfer blocks.

One of the first steps taken in the research of the Romanian classical stamps was done in 1895 by G.B. Duerst, who was among the first philatelists to bring to the collectors' attention the various types of stamps issued in 1866/70 and 1871/72.

Wassermann and Frenkel's work, published in 1898, systematically presented every issue from 1866 to 1872. Belgian, English, French and German researchers published further studies on individual values or, sometimes, on entire sets, stimulating interest in these issues.

Dorning-Beckton, the curator of the collection of the British Royal family, published 1927, a distinctive work on the Romanian stamps issued until 1872. In 1930, H. Birnbach, on the occasion of the *"IPOSTA"* international exhibiton, published a synthesis of the Romanian retouch marks, opening to the philatelists and researchers a new domain of collecting.

We cannot overlook Ed. Cohen's work published in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1950, *"Consideration sur quelques planches des emmissions lithographees des timbres de Roumanie, 1868-1872"*, in which the author presented the *"secrets"* of the transer blocks.

Sir John Wilson, a profound connoisseur of the Romanian lithographed stamps, published in *"The London Philatelist"*, in 1958, a set of articles on the Romanian stamps issued in 1866-72.

The Romanian postal stamps issued after 1865 were printed (for a couple of years) in red, yellow and blue, the colors of the Romanian flag. When this could not be achieved, a combination of two of these colors was used, for example, the 26 bani stamp of 1869 (Scott #41, Zumstein #24) was printed in blue and yellow, and the 50 bani stamp of the same year (Scott #42, Zumstein #25) was printed in blue and red.

An exception to this rule is the 3 bani violet, issued in 1868/70 (Scott #34, Z. 18) and the 25 bani brown issued in 1871/72 (Scott #47, Z. 30).

At the international philatelic exhibition held in 1958, in Bucharest, to commemorate the centenary of the issue of the first Romanian (Moldavian) stamps, the authorities exhibited from their collections, full sheets and varieties of the Romanian classical stamps of 1866-70 and 1871-72. This gave the researchers an opportunity to study and verify a lot of items of great importance, many of them unique, such as:

1866 -20 parale, type I and II, mint, ungummed, in sheet of 200 (Scott #31 and 32, Z. 16).

1866 -20 parale, two sheets, type I and II, mint, ungummed, each of 200 stamps. One of the sheets has on the lower last row, one stamp detached (No. 5 on the last row) and reattached with hinges (Scott #31 and 32, Z. 16).

1868/70 -2 bani orange, mint, in sheet of 100 (Scott #33, Z. 17). The sheet is completed on the lower last row with the No. 5 stamp attached with hinges.

1868/70 -3 bani dark violet, mint, in sheet of 100, with two missing stamps, Nos. 6 and 7 in the lower last row, and the upper left corner stamp ripped (Scott #34, Z. 18).

1868/70 -4 bani blue on yellowish paper, mint, in sheet of 100. The sheet is complete on the lower last row with the stamp No. 6 attached with hinges (Scott #35, Z. 19).

1868/70 -18 bani red-carmine, mint, upper-left sheet-end fragment of 14 stamps, on three rows, with four stamps on the first row, and the stamp on the center of the second row reattached (Scott#36, Z. 20).

1871/72 -5 bani red, mint, imperf., in sheet of 100, with the stamp No. 7 of the lower last row cut and missing (Scott #43, Z. 26).

1871/72 -15 bani red, mint, imperf., in sheet of 100, with stamp No. 9 of the lower last row missing and the stamp No. 10, cut out and reattached with hinges (Scott #46, Z. 29).

1872 -25 bani sepia, mint, in sheet of 100, with the stamp No. 8 of the lower last row missing (Scott #52, Z. 33).

1872 -10 bani steel blue, mint, imperf., defective printing, in sheet of 100. The second column perforated on both sides, some of the perforation ripped. The stamp No. 7 of the lower last row, cut out and reattached with hinges (Scott #48, . 34a).

1872-50 bani blue and red, mint, imperf., defective printing, in sheet of 100, with the stamp No. 6 (from left to right) of the upper first row missing (Scott #49, Z. 35).

TO BE CONTINUED

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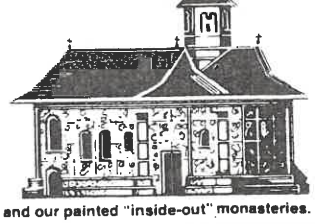

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R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, no. 3

THE PLATES OF THE LITHOGRAPHED 18 BANI STAMP OF THE 1868 ISSUE

MIHAIL POPOVICI, Str. Chopin No. 8, sc. C, et. 2, Apt. 47, 71454 Bucharest, Romania

It is known that the printing plates (the lithographic stones) for the February 1868 issue were obtained from a transfer block made up of eight intermediate cliches (numbered 1 to 8), arranged in two horizontal rows, with four cliches on each row. This block was transferred 9 times onto the lithographic stone - three times in three horizontal rows - forming a main block of 72 cliches to which 28 other extra-cliches were added to complete the printing plate for 100 stamps. By the position in which the 28 extra-cliches were added, three types of plate have so far been determined: Type A (Fig. 1), type B (Fig. 2) and type C (Fig. 3). The Romanian researcher R. Zoscsak mentioned the existence of a fourth type of plate but this could not be verified yet.

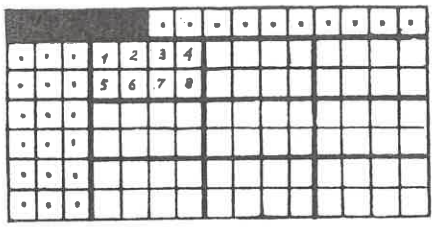


Fig. 1

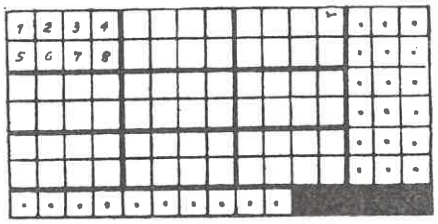


Fig. 2

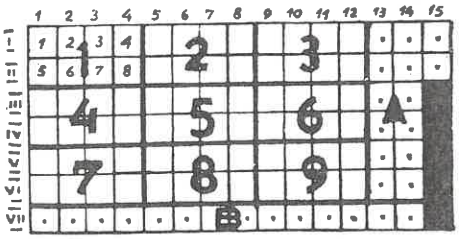


Fig. 3

For the 18 bani stamp of this issue we have the least amount of information regarding the number and the composition of the lithographic stones. This stamp was widely used (on domestic letters, up to 15 grams) and therefore this value of the issue was printed in the largest number, but large mint blocks are almost unknown. In some of the older private collections some used blocks were found, for example:

— block of 20 used stamps in the former Rothschild collection,

— block of 12 used stamps in the former Witzleben collection,

— block of 9 used stamps in the former Birnbach collection,

and several used blocks of four, all having the same regular types of transfer blocks and not giving any information as to their location in the plate.

In the Ed. Cohen collection (today the Hugo Kunzi collection) there was a used block of eight stamps, made up of two horizontal rows, with four stamps having the same cliche types on both rows (Fig. 4). This gives us positive information and clears up some doubts.

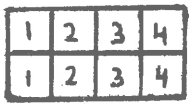


Fig.4

In 1958, at the international exhibition held in Bucharest, commemorating the centennial of Romanian postage stamps, in the collection of the *"Fabrica de Timbre"* (Stamp Printing Plant), there was presented a mint block of 14 stamps of the 18 bani, carmine red type. From this block (Fig. 5) there could be determined the cliche types of the transfer block of one of the lithographic stones.

It is sure that the 18 bani stamp was printed with several plates. Knowing that in lithographic printing, the etching on the stone wears off rapidly and that the other values, of which a much lower number were printed, used three, four or even five plates, it can be presumed that even more plates were used for the 18 bani stamp.

In his study, Ed. Cohen presented several forms of plates which were proven to exist by some isolated blocks of stamps, identified as part of sheet margins. Cohen pointed out some discrepancies in Birnbach's work: *"Die Rekonstruktion der Umdruckblocks der Rumanischen Briefmarken-Augaben von 1866-1872"*, regarding the arrangement of the cliches in the transfer blocks, questioning if the stamp considered No. 1 was indeed the first one in the first horizontal row of the transfer block. Cohen concluded that Birnbach's arrangement has to be reversed: the cliches nos. 1-4 should be nos. 5-8, and, vice-versa, nos. 5-8 should be nos. 1-4.

Cohen's doubt was made known to Poncelet, who agreed with Cohen and published his opinion in the Belgian magazine *"Philateliste Belge"*, 1935, page 147.

To draw a definite conclusion, Cohen had to wait until 1958, when the above mentioned block of 14 stamps was exhibited in Bucharest and he was informed about this by Dionisie Vadasz and by myself.

This block (Stamp Printing Plant collection) has the first stamp on the first row missing, and the third stamp from the second row cut out, then placed back in (Fig. 5). The cliche arrangement of this block, using Cohen's numbering system is shown in Fig. 6.

The late Dionisie Vadasz published an article in Filatelia, No. 1/1959: *"Some Observations Regarding the Romanian Classical Stamps"*, presenting proof that Cohen is right and Birnbach is wrong. The same observation was also made by I.L.N. Best of London, England, whose remarks were published in Filatelia, No. 12/1965.

Regarding this sheet fragment of 14 stamps and the cliche arrangement of its transfer block, following my supplying him this information, Ed. Cohen wrote me on May 16, 1959: *"I was pleasantly surprised to learn about the existence of a marginal block of the 18 bani stamp, whose arrangement confirms my deduction made earlier that the numbering of the cliche types in the transfer block should be reversed"*.

Fig 6

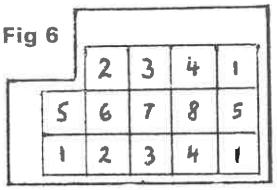
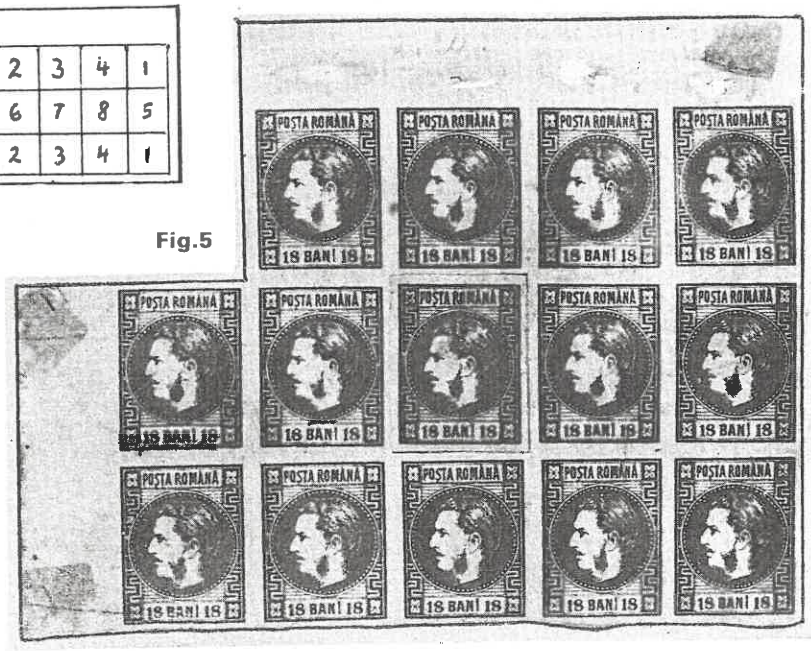


Fig.5



R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, m.3

THE 1868 ISSUE (2,4 and 18 BANI Prince Carol)

by Dr. L.N. CRISTEA, Tengstrasse No. 20, Apt. 304, 8000 Munich 40, West Germany

The Postal History:

After the change of calendar - from Juian to Gregorian - adopted simultaneously with the 1865 Prince Cuza issue, the Romanian Principalities introduced in April 1867 a monetary reform (which came into force on Jan. 1, 1868). The new currency 1 Leu = 100 Bani, instead of 40 Parale, as had been before. This change imposed a new Postal tariff, as follows:

Ordinary letter-18 Bani — formerly 20 Parale
Local-letter-4 Bani — formerly 5 Parale
Printed matter-2 Bani — formerly 2 Parale

As can be seen the actual postal fees were considerably reduced.

The new stamps:

The effigy of the Prince remained unchanged from the previous issue, but the frame design was new. The actual frame is smaller and varies from one value to the other. The frame of 18 x 23.5 mm. presents rosettes in the four corners (instead of figures), introduces a double Greek-line, carries POSTA ROMANA in the upper spandrel and the value in the lower one, expressed in figures separated by the word BANI.

The actual white circle was reduced to a diam. of 16.5mm and the number of pearls 73 (for 2 BANI) and 69 (for 4 and 18 BANI).

Ordinary parallel lines replaced the former brick-wall design between the circle and the Greek-line. Thus the neck appears shorter and the top of the head nearer the pearls. The outer frame line is thicker than for the previous issue.

No drawings or colour essays are known of this issue.

The Printing and Plates of this issue:

The actual printing was entrusted once more to the Graphic-Works of SOCEC and Co., whose litographer Sander adopted a transfer-block of 8 arranged:

1-2-3-4
5-6-7-8

This intermediary block was then transferred 9 times on to the printing stones, giving a central core of 72 stamps:

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8

In order to obtain a sheet of 100 stamps the lithographer had to place another 28 transfers on the stone. He chose, during the various printings, three different arrangements (see Mihail Popovici's article *"the Plates of the Lithographed 18 Bani Stamp of the 1866 issue"*), with a possible fourth, subject to confirmation by a block discovered in 1976, (type D).

Postal Agreements:

The Romanian Principalities signed an agreement with Russia (25.11.1857) and separate Conventions were negotiated with The German Confederation (2.7.1878) - which came into force on 1.4.1869 - and Austria (1.7.1869), establishing thus the validity of Romanian stamps for mail abroad. This ended the Russian and Austrian postal facilities in the Romanian Principalities of Walachia and Moldavia.

In July 1868 Romania was represented at the Vienna Meeting of the International Telegraph Conference. In order to modernize its postal services the government in Bucharest obtained the services of three Swiss postal officials. They were lent to Romania for a period of six months, but their mission was extended till November 1870.

The Post and the rail-services:

The first railway service started its run between Bucharest and the Danube port of Giurgiu on October 19th 1869. In the early part of 1870 a second important line was inaugurated between Itzkany (on the Moldavia / Bucovina border) - Pascani - Roman. During 1870 and 1871 the railway system was extended and the post started transporting mail, previously entrusted to mail-coaches and riders. Many of the rail-stations became Postal-Agencies (with various tasks). This added greatly to the number of postmarks introduced, of which some can be found on the 1868 issue stamps.

Printings:

The postal documents concerning this issue have not yet been discovered. The official figures remain thus unknown. But some conclusions as to the amounts of printings can be drawn from the actual postal circulation. The Romanian Stamp Catalogue of 1974 estimates (on the basis of sales at post-office counters) that the three values were issued in about the following quantities:

2 Bani - 1.000.000
4 Bani - 235.000
18 Bani - 2.000.000

These quantities appear very reasonable given the long period in which these stamps remained in circulation (1.2.1868 - Oct. 1872).

Date of issue:

The stamps were issued with Order No. 624 of January 30th, 1868. The Central Office in Bucharest started selling the new stamps on February 1st., 1868. Between 31st December 1867 and 1st February 1868 all letters circulated against cash payment, in the new currency. When recording such letters please keep in mind that many people were dating their letters according to the old calendar which would transform the above dates as follows: 19/31 December 1867; 20 Jan./ 1 Feb. 1868.

The 2 BANI stamp:

This value was printed during Nov./Dec. 1867 in a light yellow shade on thick, white, porous paper. In April 1868 a new printing gave us the yellow orange hue, on medium white paper. The error FOSTA (instead of POSTA) is common to both groups of colour, which is an indication that they were printed from the same stone. The error occured in the fifth position of the last horizontal row and is of type 1 of the Transfer-block.(Fig. 1)

Fig. 1

It should be noted that the yellow stamps are scarcer espeically in multiples, be they mint or used.

Towards the end of 1868 a new stone came into use and new colours and varieties appeared at the same time. The colour goes from orange through ochre to bistre and - later - to orange vermilion. Some of the darker shades are known on yellowish paper. But the actual paper used in some of the later printings was thinner and rather smooth. Most of the blocks or the used multiples which have survived belong to the orange group of colours and are on thin-smooth paper.

Given the long period of circulation, many stones must have been used, and some of them repeatedly. So far 5 have been identified (1 type A, 2 type B and one each of type C and D) but the recording of multiples and marginals might allow further identifications.

It is important to underline that the 2 BANI stamp was printed from stones prepared with the help of two DIFFERENT transfer-blocks. For the characteristics of the two blocks please consult the Romanian Stamp Catalogue of 1974 or the Reconstruction of the Transfer-blocks by Dr. Birnbach in a booklet issued in Berlin in 1930.

The 2 Bani stamp presents retouches, (Fig. 2) both by brush (background of effigy)

Fig. 2

Before retouch **After 1st retouch** **After 2nd retouch** **After 3rd retouch**

and tool (hair, back of head). But the characteristic retouches are those concerning the letter S in POSTA, on type 3 of the first transfer-block. The retouches were made as follows:

a) Under S in POSTA appeared a fat round point instead of a cedilla, which turns the S into an Sh.

b.) This dot was scratched into 3 lines, but the base of the S was cut in two and a dot appeared under the O making it in to a Q.

c). These irregularities were removed and the S remained without a cedilla and with a rather thin base.

This series of retouches can be found on yellow, orange and red orange stamps proving thus that the same stones were used by the lithographer for several printings. As some of the stamps were used in 1871 we must conclude that a worn stone, after cleaning and retouching, was brought back into use fairly late.

These varieties should be collected in parallel in various shades of colour with very careful recording of dates.

The 4 BANI stamp:

A rarer stamp than the 2 Bani, (Fig. 3) was printed in three main groups of colours and on four distinct papers. The colours were light blue, followed by medium blue (in two distinct shades) and then dark blue - indigo. After the first white, porous paper a white glossy followed. The thinner paper is known slightly yellowish (with all three groups of colour) and also yellow and even Havana (with dark blue-indigo).

The sheets of 100 stamps were printed from stones of the A, B and C type.

It should be noted that the 4 Bani suffered retouches on the actual transfer-block, which made the types 2, 5, 7, 8 closer to the circle of pearls. Type 4 has a marked retouch of the ear, along the top. Another fact to be underlined is that the 4 Bani design is incomplete, which can be seen in the S-W corner rosette.

It came into use at the beginning of February 1868 in a light blue shade on white, almost porous paper. All later printings were in medium and dark blue. The stamps on white and yellowish paper in dark blue were recorded in late 1869 and 1870. The last printing, of which most multiples are recorded, was on thin shiny white paper.

Fig. 4, The great retouch

The indications are that the first stone used was of the C type. The dark blue is from a stone type A, of which we know two different settings. Stone type B too had probably two settings, on both white and yellow paper.

This 4 Bani stamps offers us some of the most spectacular retouches known, both by brush and tool, carried out on the actual printing stone. Some of these retouches are very rare. Here are some of the better known:

Type 8: (Fig. 4) This is known in a block of 10 (von Witzlenben Coll. now in Soviet Union); a block of 4 (former Chen Coll.); in a vertical pair (ex-Ferrari Coll.) and about 10 singles. The great retouch is not known unused.

Type 8: (Fig. 5) Not only the Greek-line has lost its symmetry, but 3 pearls have been blotted out-at approx. 1 o'clock and the letters ANA in ROMANA are redrawn.

Fig. 5

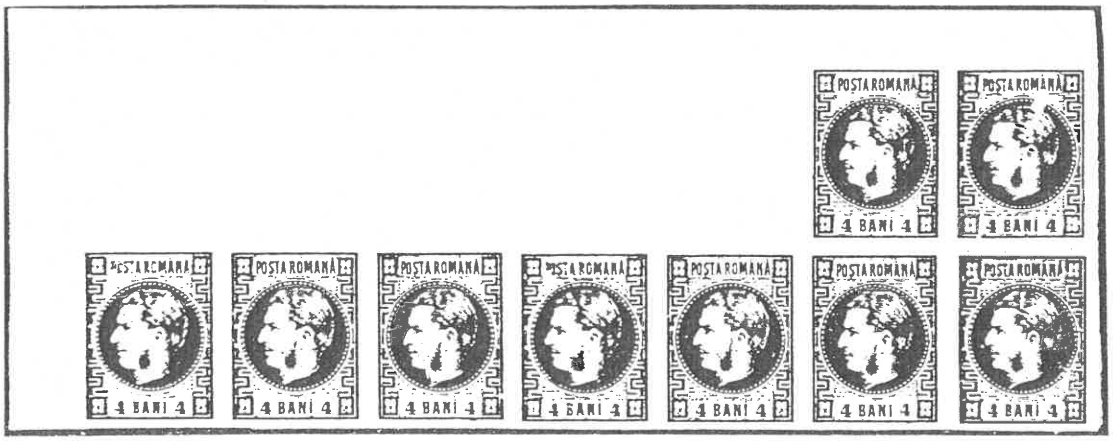


Fig. 3

unique top-left margin block

Type 8 (Fig. 6) The lower right Greek-line is affected. Frame line under 4 BA is interrupted and badly defined.

All belong to the medium blue colour group.

Fig. 6

On the dark blue stamps - a later stone - there is one main retouch, which affects the letters ANA in ROMANA, on a type 1 stamp, and the frame and parallel lines below those letters and the top right corner rosette. This is a very elusive stamp. In the same colour group should be mentioned a type 6 with a very marked front of the bust/throat redrawing, forming an exclamation mark with the pearl of minute 34. (Fig. 7)

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

These are the main retouches, but others can be found and also some interesting constant varieties. All these retouches and varieties should be collected in parallel, in the various shades.

This stamp was meant for Locol-letters, on which it is rare, (Fig. 8) but can be found in mixed frankings (good) (Fig. 9) or even cut in two (extremely rare) (Fig. 10). In multiples or blocks it is a very good item especially used.

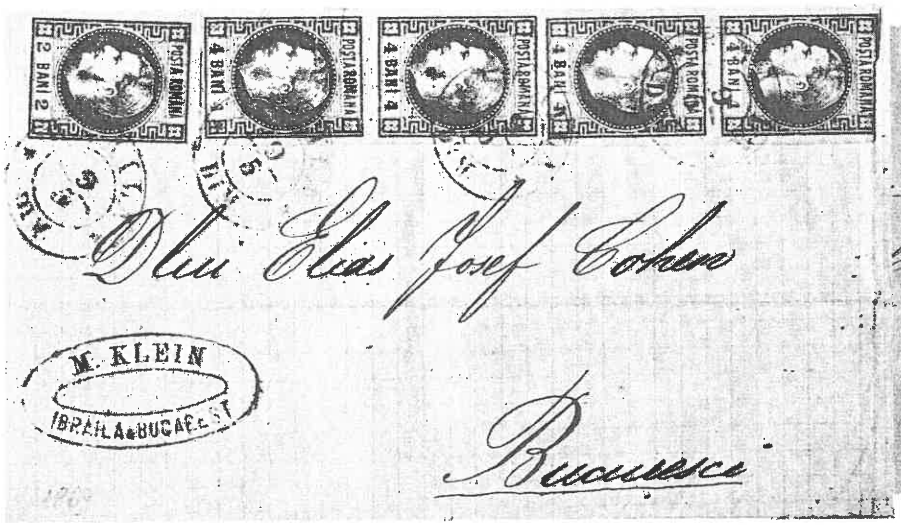


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

The 18 BANI stamp:

This is the common stamp of the issue, in used condition, but nevertheless the least known. It was in circulation for a long time, it franked the ordinary letters, and must have been printed from numerous stones. The frequent printings are illustrated by the great variety of colours.

Its transfer-block remained unknown till the late thirties, because of very few multiples with left margin. For its correct sequence please consult the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue 1974.

The colours can be grouped as follows: a) The rose (from pale to lilac) b) red-orange and c) carmine groups. The darker shades, combined with toned paper are the scarcer items. The paper was at first white porous, then thinner shiny on both white and yellowish hues.

The only so far identified type of stones, from which this value has been printed, are A and C. All multiples and especially marginal items are of great importance in order to complete our evidence. All collectors who have marginals and multiples should note new transfer-block types shades, paper, and date (if possible). The constant varieties must be collected in parallel in order to determine the number of stones.

The two biggest multiples recorded so far are:

1) a block of 14 in the Post-Museum Bucharest:

2-3-4-1
5-6-7-8-5
1-2-3-4-1

This is from the top left corner of the sheet with one stamp cut out, and is mint, though with folds due to poor storing.

2) a used block of 20, (Fig. 11) from the Rothschild Collection:

5-6-7-8-5
1-2-3-4-1
5-6-6-7-5
1-2-3-4-1

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

This value presents also retouches in the background (by brush), which appear as blotches of deeper colour, or on the effigy (by tool) as lines defining the hair, the neck of front of bust, (Fig. 12). The 18 Bani offers us also a *"re-entry"*, with the top left rosette presenting a double ray in its N-W corner.

This stamp can be collected with a great variety of postmarks and in multiples on letters is a scarce item. It appears also in mixed frankings with the other values of 1868, 1869 and even 1871.

Review:

ALMANAHUL FILATELIC 1979 (Philatelic Almanac 1979)

Published in Romanian by ROMPRESFILATELIA in Bucharest, 258 pages, 17 lei.

Contains a large number of entertaining articles, notes and information on Romanian and foreign stamps and postal history, also historical writings, anecdotes, poems, short plays, puzzles and cryptograms, most of them on philatelic themes.

Several articles cover various historical events, periods or personalities illustrated on stamps, such as *"The Formation of the Romanian People as Presented in a Philatelic Exhibit"* by Dr. Mihail Chiritescu, *"50 Years Since the First Romanian Air Mail Stamps"* by Mihail Popovici, *"Romanian Revolutionaries on our Postage Stamps"* by Dinu Vasiliu, *"The History of World Posts Mirrored on Stamps"* by Edmund Zaray, and others.

Well documented studies include: *"The Beginning of the Romanian Posts in Dobrudja"* by Grigore Cuculis, *"Official Seals and Cancels"* by Mihail Ionita-Alesu, etc.

Other engaging articles include: *"An Interesting Postal Experiment"* by Silviu Dragomir, *"How the Stamps of the Paris, Bucharest I and Bucharest II issues can be Differentiated"* by Gh. Pasa, *"The International Federation of Philately"* by Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici and *"Maximaphily"* by Dr. Dragos Niculescu.

On the negative side, we have to state that some illustrations and titles, although having spaces provided for them, are missing.

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R. Phil. Stud, NY, 1979, III, nr 4.

THE 3 BANI STAMP OF 1870

Dr. L. N. Cristea, Tengstrasse 20, Apt. 304, Munich 40, West Germany,
45 North Side, London SW4—0AA, England

The 3 Bani violet stamp of 1870 (Fig. 1) marks the first exception to an unwritten rule. All of Romania's previous stamps had been printed in one of the three national colors: red, yellow, or blue.

Fig. 1

Fig. 3

It was printed using the 4 Bani transfer—block, from which the lithographer removed the numerals of value from the 8 types and substituted the figures *3*. Thus, 16 (two for each stamp) slightly different numerals *3* exist, while the transfer types of the block are, in all other characteristics, identical to those of the 4 Bani. The new figures were introduced on the TRANSFER—BLOCK and not directly on the printing stone. In order to avoid a detailed description of the types, we present an illustration of the transfer—block characteristics, taken from the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu (Fig. 2).

In comparison, some characteristics are less marked on the 3 Bani than on the 4 Bani (types 3,4,and 5).

The Swiss philatelist, Karl Kolb, published an essay (in Journal Philatelique Suisse, October 1950) in which he examined the traces of the figures *4* on the *3* Bani transfer—block. He proved that these traces are visible on all 8 types, not only on type 5, as previously mentioned by another philatelic scholar, Rene Poncelet, in his study of Romania's classic stamps (in Philateliste Belge No. 159, February 28, 1935). These traces are visible mostly on the early printings and were later partially removed through retouching and also became less visible because of the wear of the printing stone.

COLORING

The 3 Bani stamp was printed in various shades of violet, which run the gamut from a very pale and inert lilac to a deep violet, with shades of reddish—violet and of a bluish— violet (very rare). The colors are also affected by the consistency and the hue of the paper.

PAPER

The main categories are white and yellowish papers. The white paper group can be further subdivided into those printings on thin and shiny paper (similar to that of the 2 Bani orange printed about the same time) and those on slightly thicker, porous paper, which appears greyish in some cases. In general, stamps on this thicker, dull paper have most of the printing flaws, but these are more difficult to identify because the paper's surface makes them hard to see.

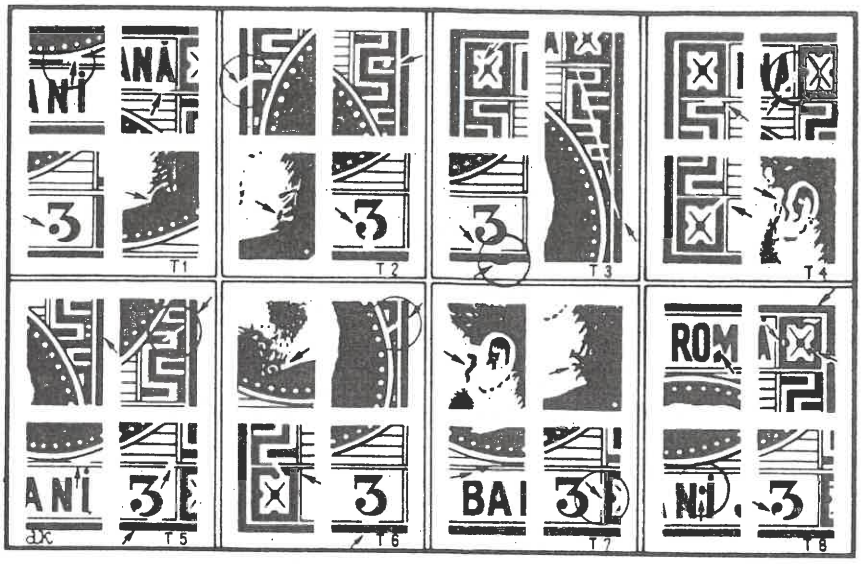


Fig. 2

PERFORATION

The perforated (10. 5x10, 13. 3x13. 2 and 14.5x13.2) 3 Bani stamps, found mostly unused (Fig. 3) but in rare cases also used, are due to private initiative, as Romania first perforated its stamps in 1872, when it used a 12½ gauge perforator. This perforated stamp, in its used state, should be collected only on a letter or wrapper.

BISECTS, TRISECTS AND COMBINATION USAGE

At the beginning of 1872, the postal authorities in Jassy were faced with a shortage of 5 and 10 Bani stamps. This led to the cutting of the 2 and 3 Bani stamps (and in very rare cases also of the 4 Bani) for use at a fraction of their face values (Fig. 4). Thus we find letters with strips of 3 of the 3 Bani stamps plus 1/3 of a 3 Bani stamp to yield the 10 Bani postage rate. Most of the letters recorded are from the second half of February 1872. Rene Poncelet mentions one such letter dated January, but did not give further details. This stamp was also cut in half, to pay the newspaper rate of 1½ Bani.

Fig. 4

While dealing with such emergency usages, we should also mention the rare combination of a 4 Bani plus ½ of a 2 Bani, to render the 5 Bani rate, and the very rare 2 Bani Plus 1/2 of the same value, or 2 Bani plus 1/3 of the 3 Bani used to obtain the 3 Bani rate.

An interesting combination found mostly on postal—receipts, is that of the 2 plus 3 Bani stamps, thus making the 5 Bani rate (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5

PRINTING

The actual amount of the 3 Bani printed is not known. The estimated figure of 100,000 seems rather low, given the long period (June 1870—October 1872) of its validity and that so far 6 printing stones have been identified. (Figs. 6, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 8).

The printing stones have been identified with the help of the surviving sheets and large blocks.

Types as Figs. 6 and 8 were not used much and are probably the early stones, while types as Figs. 7a, 7b, and 7d stones account for the greater part of the printings. Of course, there may have been more printing stones, but only marginal copies, blocks and marginal multiples can give us the necessary evidence needed for their identification.

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF USAGE

Ever since the introduction of the 1868 issue, a 3 Bani stamp had been advocated, but its printing and issue was postponed until May 1870. The Postmaster—General, Al. Cociu, prepared the 1869 Postal Law, but political events shelved it forever. His successor Al. Zissu took into consideration its main innovations and issued a regulation, proclaiming the new postal—rates to be in force as of October 15, 1870. This new regulation, based on the 1869 Law, fixed the rate for printed—matter at 3 Bani for 40 grams, for any distance. However, this rate could not be enforced because of the lack of such a stamp.

Except by bisection of a 2 Bani stamp, no existing stamps could make up this rate. To be better prepared, Zissu decided to order and issue the 3 Bani stamp before the actual regulation came into force officially.

The 3 Bani stamp was printed by LITHO S. SANDER and Co., in Bucharest, and was issued for use sometime in May 1870. The earliest date so far recorded is 11|6 (1870) June 11, 1870 BUCURESTI/SERA. This stamp remained in use until October 1872. The latest recorded date is 8 OCT. 72 — BRAILA.

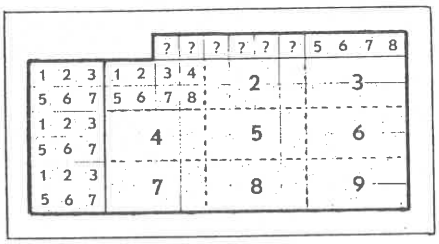


Fig. 6

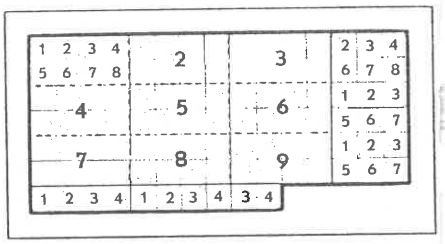


Fig. 7a

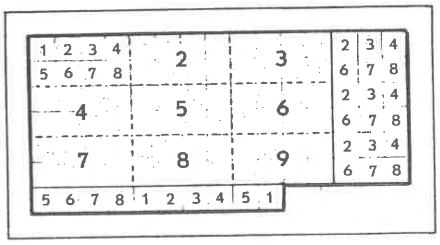


Fig. 7b

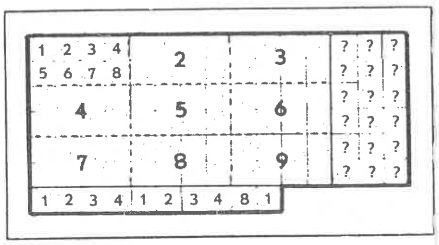


Fig. 7c

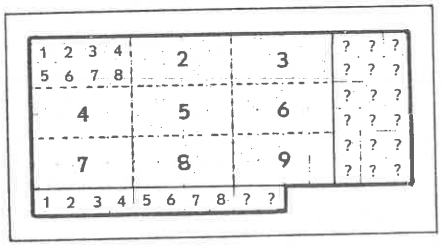


Fig. 7d

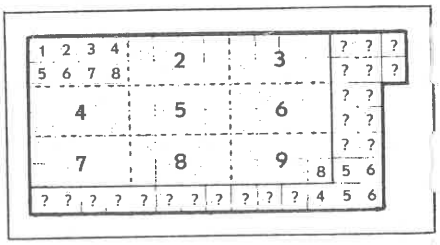


Fig. 8

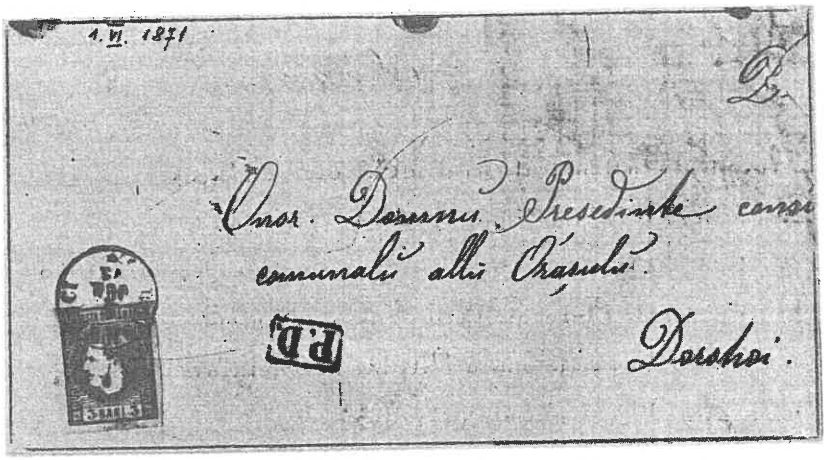


Fig. 9a

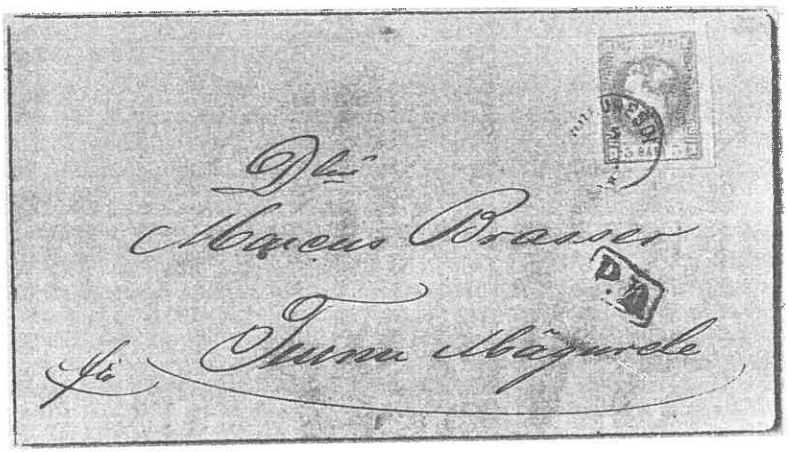


Fig. 9b

stamp remained in use until October 1872. The latest recorded date is 8 OCT. 72 — BRAILA.

The dating of the 3 Bani stamp is greatly facilitated by the introduction in March 1870, of a new type of cancellation. This 20 mm single circle postmark bears, besides the name of the town (in its upper part), the date on three lines: day (in figures), the month (in three upper case letters) and the year (the last two figures), and a small ornament (cross, 6—or 8—pointed star). A year later, in July 1871, the *thimble postmarks* (17—18 mm dia..), which are common on this and later issues, also appeared.

The 3 Bani on printed matter is rather rare, though this was its reason for coming into exsistence. It has survived mostly on circulars (Figs. 9a, 9b). It can also be found in mixed franking with stamps of 1868, 1869 and even 1871/2 issues (Figs. 10a, 10b). Multiples in the form of strips, and especially blocks are desirable items, the more so if on letters.

Fig. 10a

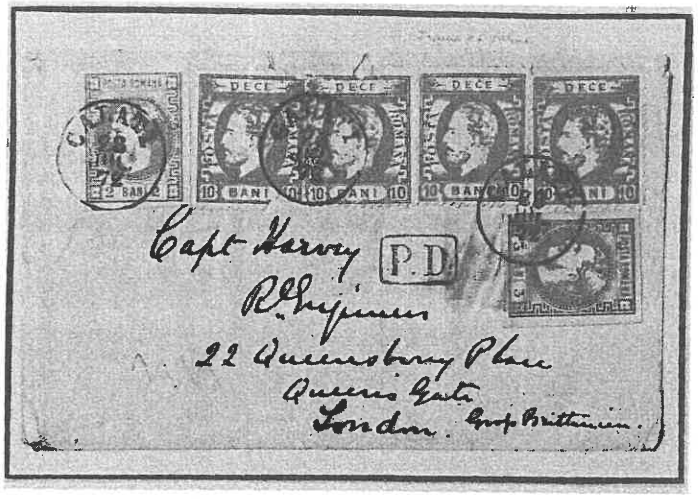


Fig. 10b

RETOUCHES AND VARIETIES

The 3 BANI stamps present few spectacular retouches. Nevertheless, brush retouches (around the portrait — rather rare) and a few frame retouches do exist. Some of the latter can be traced through different shades, proof that the same stone served for several printings. Also, this stamp offers to the diligent student a series of imperfections, due to both the wear of the stones and the hastiness of some printings. Some constant varieties we thus find include broken letters (*U* instead of *O* in ROMANIA, *O* in POSTA, *I* in BANI, etc.),,a broken transfer in the upper right corner, an interrupted circle at 2 o'clock or 9 o'clock, or a downward extension of the Greek line over the southeast corner ornament, coupled with the deformation of the *N* in BANI, as well as many others. Likewise, we can find bald patches in the hair region of the effigy, which the lithographer did not attempt to cover up by retouching, for he was as unconcerned about this as about the shades of ink which he used.

REVIEW by Dr. L.N. Cristea

RUMANIEN, Typenmerkmale, Umdruckblocks und Drucksteine der Steindruck—Ausgaben, 1865—1872 (ROMANIA, type characteristics, transfer—blocks and printing stones of the lithographed issues of 1865—1872) by HANS GEORG, Oberfeldstrasse 24, 757 Baden—Baden 24, West Germany. Price: DM 40. — plus postage.

This 155 page booklet, in the German language, is the most up—to—date work for introduction and guidance to collectors of Romania's lithographed issues, a most interesting field of classic philately. With few words, clear drawings and diagrams, this work conveys the essentials.

Great satisfaction accrues to the collector lucky enough to make discoveries. This booklet puts discoveries within reach of even those who do not have access to vast collections. Only 2 months after its printing, a collector in Britain brought a key item of the 18 Bani 1868 issue to the reviewer's attention. As the transfer—block types are amply identified and their layout on the stones well explained, average collectors can now reconstruct transfer—blocks and discover outstanding items nestled in their own albums. Careful study of marginal and multiple items will certainly lead to the discovery of new stones.

The listing of recorded key items and blocks is a considerable service to Romanian philately. Similarly, the supplements concerning the postmarks found on the successive issues enable the reader to weed out counterfeit postmarks, only too often found in dealers' stocks or auction lots. Thus, all readers can benefit, as information in several languages, spread through dozens of articles and books, has been compiled and analyzed.

In his forward, the author emphasizes that he did not strive for *completeness* or *total correctness.* I am inclined to suggest a second booklet to the author. In it, he could not only present addenda and corrigenda, but also errors, constant varieties and the picturesque retouches.

Editor's Note: An English edition would have a much wider appeal and by printing it in a larger quantity, the price could be brought down which would further stimulate its sale.

REVIEW:
DAM CONSTRUCTION IN PHILATELY
by Ioan B. Sahinian,

Published in Bucharest in 1979, 87 pages, 10.50 lei

This is an excellent handbook for the topical collector specializing in dams. It illustrates several stamps with dams, at the same time giving some technical information on the dams. It also presents a list of stamps falling within this topic issued by various countries and contains a short bibliography.

REVIEW: BALCESCU IN PHILATELY
by Ioan B. Sahinian,

Published in Bucharest in 1979, 64 pages, 10 lei.

This booklet presents Nicolae Balcescu, the great Romanian revolutionary of 1848, as he is portrayed on stramps, F.D.C.s, maximum cards and postal stationery. It also informs us that 12 different localities in Romania have been named after this illustrious statesman, and gives details on their location, whether they have their own post offices, etc.

R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1980, IV, nr. 2.

The 1869 Prince Carol Issue Part I: The Three Lower Values

Dr. L. N. Cristea, Tengstrasse 20, Apt. 304, Munich 40, West Germany

The 1869 Prince Carol issue -5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 Bani - was the first available for prepayment of either internal or external postage. The country had concluded its first postal agreements, putting an end to 'some' of the foreign postal services, which had handled mail for abroad (See "The 1868 Issue", Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1979). I emphasize the word 'some,' because recent research proves that river posts on the Danube (DDSG, Austrian Lloyd and Obshchestvo Chernomorska-Dunaiskago Parokhodstva) continued a long time after the agreements with Russia (1857) and Austria (1869) came into being.

Known as the INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, the five stamps first came into use on April 1, 1869. Prince Carol himself posted at the Central Post Office in Bucharest, the first ordinary and first registered letters for abroad. These were addressed to his family in Germany, and franked with the new stamps.

It remains to be discovered how these letters reached their destination in Bavaria, given the fact that the convention with the "German Confederation" did not come into force until July 1, 1869 (See "Revista Telegraf si Posta" 1869, page 199).

Fig. 1

These top corner ornaments necessarily vary for different values because of the differing lengths of the values expressed in letters. Left and right of the effigy appear "POSTA" and "ROMANA," in slightly curved spandrels superimposed on a Greek ornamental line.

Colors and Printing:

The printer once again used the three national colors - red for the 15 Bani, yellow for the 5 Bani and blue for the 10 Bani - for the low values, and a combination of the same colors for the top values - blue and yellow for the 25 Bani and red and blue for the 50 Bani. The top values required two separate printing operations, one for each color: first the frame and then the effigy.

The lithographer, for some unknown reason, abandoned the use of the transfer block of 8 stamps as utilized for the 1868 issue and adopted a smaller one of 4, arranged horizontally - 1 2 3 4.

The make up of the printing stone, 100 stamps, was not simplified, and once more it was necessary to annex transfers to the right (zone "A") and the bottom (zone "B") of the sheet.

From research done so far, we can conclude that the three lower values were printed from three types of stones (Fig. 2).

The annexed transfers (zones "A" and "B"), to the right and below the main core of the printing stone allow us to identify the type of stone used, the number of printing stones used and to establish the sequence of printing and colors.

New Postal Rates:

Postal regulations were prepared in accord with international conventions concluded with other countries. These should have come into force on January 1, 1869, but Parliamentary procedures of foreign countries delayed their application until April 1, 1869 in case of Austria-Hungary, and July 1, 1869 in that of the German Confederation.

The rates agreed on were:

Ordinary letters (15 gr) for abroad ..... 50 Bani
Ordinary letters (15 gr) for adjoining countries ..... 25 Bani
Printed matter or samples (40 gr) for abroad ..... 5 Bani

These rates for foreign mail are not in doubt, but uncertainty reigns as to the interim internal rates, because regulations concerning these were not approved by the Government until October 15, 1870.

According to these regulations, internal rates were as follows:

Ordinary letters (15 gr) ..... 10 Bani
Drop letters (15 gr) ..... 5 Bani
Registration fee ..... 30 Bani
Printed matter, samples, etc. (40 gr) ..... 3 Bani

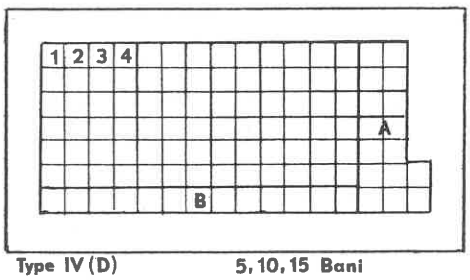
This rate had already been placed in effect in May 1870, by a circular of the postal authorities.

Newspapers (40 gr) ..... 1½ Bani
Postman's delivery charge paid in cash ..... 2 Bani.

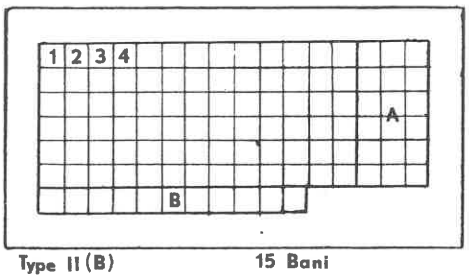
Designs:

As can be seen (Fig. 1) they maintained the same head of the Prince as previously, but the circular frame was abandoned in favor of an oval. A color dot on the bust line - about 2/5 of the way up from the bust point - can be observed on the 5, 10 and 15 Bani values. The same color dot is also present on the first printing of the 50 Bani value.

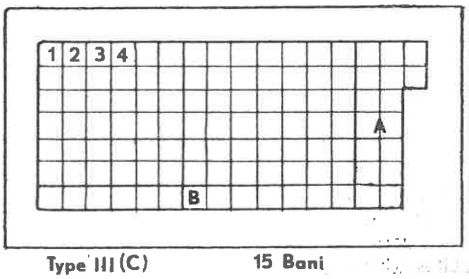
The frame design is changed. The value is indicated in figures on both sides of the bottom spandrel containing the word "BANI," and again is spelled out in the top spandrel, between two corner ornaments.



Type IV (D) 5, 10, 15 Bani



Type II (B) 15 Bani



Type III (C) 15 Bani

Fig. 2

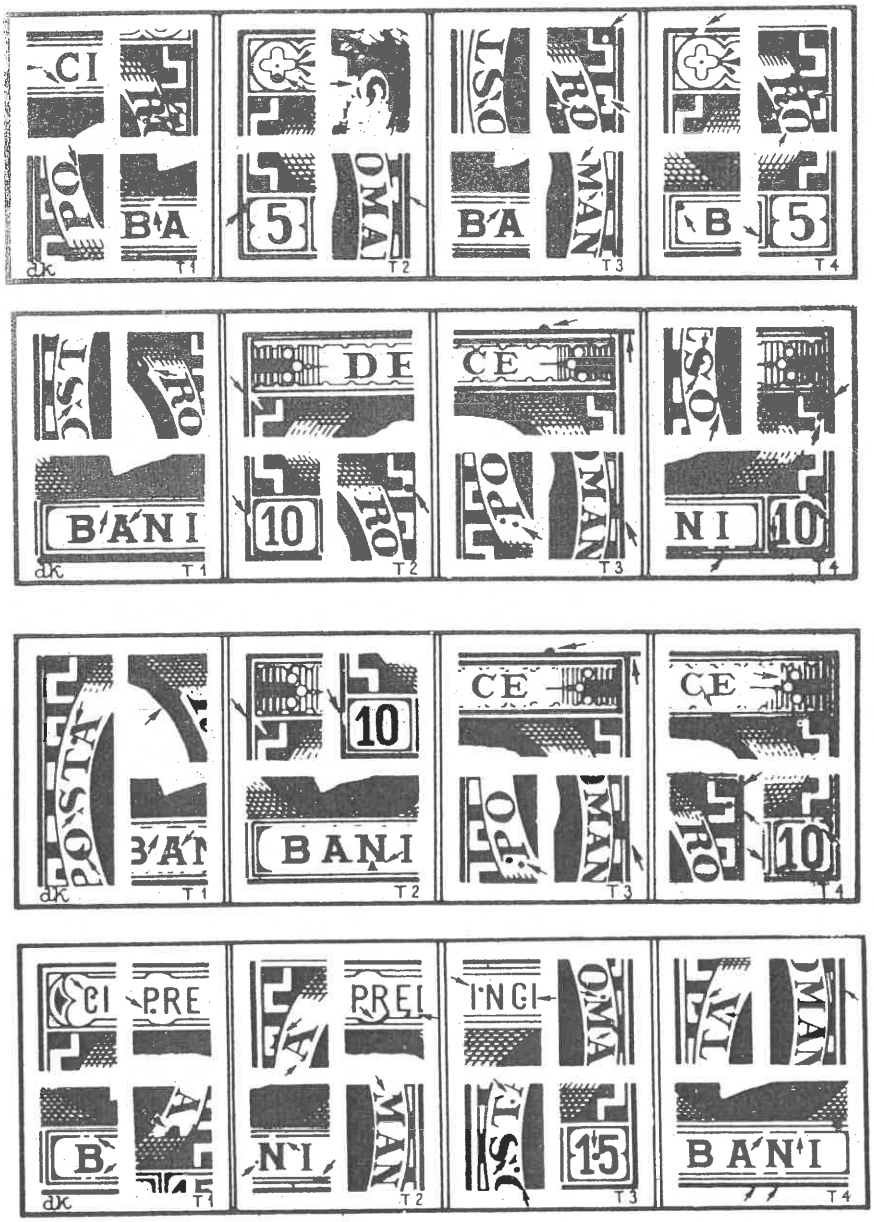


Fig. 3

Transfer Blocks:

Illustrated here (Fig. 3) are the transfer blocks of the monocolored lower values, as given in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 by Kiriac Dragomir and Aurel Surpateanu. The actual configuration of the 5, 25 and 50 Bani transfer blocks were not correctly deduced until the early forties. Research carried out both in Romania (by K. Dragomir) and abroad (by Sir John Wilson, Eduardo Cohen and Dr. L.N. Cristea) established that those previously stated (by Dr. H. Birnbach of Berlin) were not totally correct.

Paper:

The paper used for the printing of the 1869 issue varied greatly, this also affecting the colors. Its consistency varied from a fairly thick, porous, white wove, to a thin translucent ('pelure'), occasionally slightly yellowish paper.

The initial paper - thick, porous, white wove - was replaced in 1870 by a medium white wove paper which is sometimes shiny. Yellowish shades of this paper are rarer, especially unused.

The 15 Bani value is also known on vertically laid paper, but has not yet been found on genuine cover. All such items recorded are rose in color, with cancellation usually in blue violet, and occasionally in an indistinct black. The black stamp should, for the present, be considered as a possible color proof, which was used by the Ministry of Finance, for internal requirements. One researcher (Sir John Wilson) has stated that it could have been a sheet, used as a cover for one of the initial stones, which had been kept in reserve. These speculations are conjucture, and we emphasize that the 15 Bani laid paper did not frank mail, all legible obliterations being of a fiscal nature.

Quantities Printed:

The published printing figures in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 are as follows:

5 Bani	350,000
10 Bani	360,000
15 Bani	350,000
25 Bani	500,000
50 Bani	330,000

This adds up to a total of 1,890,000 stamps, which appears modest and improbable as this issue remained in use from April 1869 until August 1872, therefore over 3 years. Even if we take into account the other issues of 1871 and 1872, a total under two million seems improbable. If a figure for the 5 Bani stamp is used as a guide, those for the 10, 15 and 25 Bani should have been two or three times higher. In fact, by themselves the two most used values of the 1868 issue, the 2 and 18 Bani stamps, were printed in quantities of one and two million copies respectively, and were intended for internal use only. It is therefore highly unlikely that the complete 1869 issue, meant to be used also for external mail, should have been held down to a much lower printing. We can presume without hesitation that the 10 Bani value must have reached the 1,000,000 figure, while the 15 Bani must have reached 1,500,000. The total for the five values of 1869 issue can be estimated at about 3,500,000. RPSC of 1974 does not indicate the source for its figures, and, in the absence of official documents (as to the actual printings or returns of sold stamps), we must accept its figures only as estimates of the early printings of 1869/70.

The 5 Bani Stamp

This is a difficult stamp to allocate to its transfer block types. It was printed in hues ranging from yellow to red orange. Watery yellow originates in the first printing (March/April 1869). The unclear, watery appearance is common to all values of the early printings. According to the late Sir John Wilson, this was the result of too much moisture on the printing stones. The red orange shade is known in both clear and slightly fluffy printing. The later is the more elusive and - so far - unknown in an unused copy.

The 5 Bani stamp is scarce in large blocks. From the few marginal copies recorded, we can conclude that it was printed from a IV (D) type of stone. Right sheet margin copies are as important for plating as left sheet margin copies which have permitted the correction of the transfer block configuration. Known items from the right side of the sheet are one block:

3-4-1-2-x
3-4-1-2-x

and one strip: 3-4-2-3-4-x, both from the former collection of E. Cohen, and a block in an English collection:

4-x-x
3-4-x.

The biggest unit known is a mint block of 25 in the former collection of Gh. Matheescu. This mint block is an orange shade and probably comes from a sheet recorded in the stock of a London dealer in 1933. The sheet was cut into three parts. It would be interesting to trace the other two,

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

or even parts of them, as they include the most interesting sections of the sheet.

Varieties

The "N" in CINCI is known with the middle line broken, which almost gives it the appearance of an "H". In type 1, the last vertical of "N" can be found broken in its lower part, and in type 4 in its upper part. The "5", in the lower right corner, has been recorded with a colored spot which makes it look like a "6".

Desirable Items:

Besides mint and used multiples, and items from the right side of the sheet, this stamp is a good item when on postal receipts (Fig. 4). They enable one to record the date of use, as most bear an indication of the year, which is not included in the 1869 Romanian postmarks (with the exception of OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR; GARA ROMAN/OFF. POSTAL; BUCURESTI/OFF. POSTAL GAR. FIL; GIURGIU/OFF. POSTAL GARA postmarks). It is also of interest on locally sent letters (Fig. 5) and printed matter sent abroad. The latter sometimes show fully dated arrival postmarks.

An outstanding item is a cover with a 5 and a 10 Bani, mailed from ROMAN to SUCEAVA (in Austrian Bucovina) (Fig. 6). The 5 Bani is the rare red orange hue. The date reading 29/12/69 in the GARA ROMAN postmark and is confirmed by the JIZKANY/Bahnhof 1/1/70. We thus have proof from this one cover that this rare shade pertains to the 1869 printings and furthermore that the fee for adjoining countries (under Austro-Hungarian control) was 15 Bani.

The 10 Bani Stamp:

This value was printed from stones prepared using two different transfer blocks. The lighter shades - full blue, light blue, greenish blue, medium blue and ultramarine - are products of the first (a) transfer block. Dark blue and indigo hues were printed from stones of the second (b) transfer block.

The medium blue, on ordinary, white wove paper has so far been recorded with cancellation dates of 26 May '69, 3 Aug. '69 and 17 Aug. '69. In October-November the color is blue, the paper porous and the printing appears less clear. In January-March 1870, when the printing stones showed signs of wear, the lithographer began to retouch the head, the bust and the hair line. These retouches can be traced through several shades. In the autumn of 1870 the stamps in full blue and ultramarine (13 Oct. '70) continue exhibiting characteristics of a worn stone. The deep ultramarine (Dec. '70) printing must have been a small one, as there are few such stamps in collections. Ultramarine stamps remained in use until February-March 1871, when a darker blue shade replaced them (April-June 1871).

Stamps printed from a stone manufactured by means of the second transfer block appear almost simultaneously with the introduction of the indigo shade. A colored dot between "T" and "A" in POSTA (type 1) as well as a break in the frame over the first Greek ornament in the upper left corner (type 1) establish that printings made during March-June 1871, in light blue, blue or indigo originated from a stone

Fig. 6

of the second transfer block. Ultramarine stamps found with postmarks from the middle of 1871 are actually remainders from 1870 (first transfer block) which had been run out of in February only in the larger towns. Yellow paper can be found in printings from either stone, in combination with medium blue, dark blue and indigo shades.

It should be noted that in 1872 there were five different 10 Bani stamps that were in use:

10 Bani blue 1869
10 Bani yellow orange 1871
10 Bani blue 1871
10 Bani blue 1872 (perf.)
10 Bani steel blue and ultramarine of 1872 (Emergency Issue).

Varieties:

The 10 Bani stamp offers us, in its medium blue shade, a classic example of the double impression, nearly triple (Fig. 7). All known copies of this exceedingly rare variety show Nov. 1870 postmarks. It has not yet been recorded unused nor in multiples, or on cover. While the minimum that could have been printed of it is one sheet, so far only 5 copies have been recorded. The 10 Bani stamps were in short supply at times. This face explains hasty printings, many shades, countless flaws, retouches (Fig. 8) and even paper folds. Stone scratches can be found on several shades, as well as retouches (to hair, ear, sideburns, dots and streaks also affect the frame design (Fig. 9).

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

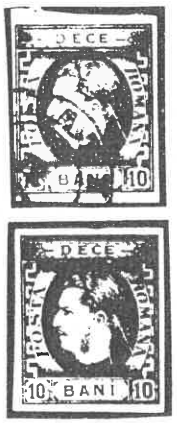


Fig. 9

Bisection:

The 10 Bani value was cut in half, in order to replace 5 Bani stamps (of which there was a shortage) for the rate required on postal receipts (Fig. 10). Thus we find such used in BOLGRAD (February-August 1871), JASSY, GIURGIU and GALATZ. So far, such bisected stamps have not been recorded on letters.

Exeptional Items:

Multiples in light blue and blocks in dark ultramarine in unused state are scarce and important for plating purposes and for tracing the history of printing stones and retouches. Used blocks and multiples are likewise desirable items, especially if they come from irregular parts (zones "A" and "B") of the stone. These prove that the stamps were printed from two type IV (D) stone, as we have on record the following famous BURRUS blocks:

3-4-x-x
3-4-x-x and 4-2-3-4-x
2-3-4-x 4-2-3-4-x
1-2-3-x

That there were two stones is confirmed by many other marginal items. The Gh. Matheescu collection offers us a different part of zone "A" in a block of 4 consisting of:

2-3-x
2-3-x

This stamp used in combination with others of the same set (10 plus 5; 10 plus 15; 10 plus 25 Bani) or in mixed frankings with stamps of the 1868 issue (10 plus 2 plus 3 Bani) or the later issues of 1871 and 1872 is greatly appreciated by the specialist.

The 15 Bani Stamp:

This, the most widely used value, can be found in a great number of shades, on several papers, and with numerous constant and incidental varieties. To facilitate classification, shades have been grouped as follows:

a) Rose to rose carmine,
b) Red to deep red
c) Vermillion.

The rarest is dark rose, especially scarce on porous, white wove paper.

The paper quality differs from one printing to another. The white wove paper is known in a medium thickness, later with a shiny finish, and occasionally shows a yellow tinge.

This stamp remained in use till late August 1872 and it can be found in combination with many of the 1871 and 1872 issue stamps.

The transfer block of this value was used to make up stones of types II (B), III (C) and IV (D). At some stage during the printings, the transfer block itself was slightly retouched and type 4 thereafter exhibited a color dot in front of the "R" in ROMANA. All type 4 vermillion stamps show this variety. On vertically laid paper type 4 shows this color dot. This might point out that as the retouch of the transfer block was carried out fairly early, the stones prepared initially (with the retouch-

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

ed transfer block) was kept in reserve for a later printing, its cover sheet - of laid paper - was then removed and used for administrative purposes by the Ministry of Finance.

To identify the stones used we need more information regarding marginal multiples and other items extant. Key blocks, demonstrating the existence of three types of printing stones are:

1-2-3-4
1-2 for stone type II (B)
3-4-x-x
3-4-x-x-
1-2-3-x
2-3-4-x for stone type IV (D)
1-2-3-x
1-2-3-x
4-4-x-x for stone type III (C)

More right sheet margin copies are still needed to completely arrange the stones' makeup. From the countless shades and qualities of paper used, a great number of printings can be deduced. Therefore, several stones must have existed for each arrangement.

Retouches:

Besides the retouch on the transfer block, this value offers many retouch varieties, both by brush and tool. The most spectacular are those affecting the first 3 positions of the sheet (Fig. 11), of the red group. Position 1 presents a long colored tear under the eye; the "O" in "ROMANA" has colored spots; the "N" in "CINCISPREDECE" is thicker than the adjoining letters; the left vertical frame line is broken. Position 2 displays the variety "H" instead of "N" in "CINCISPREDECE" and the stamp's whole upper left corner has been affected. Position 3 presents the catalogued variety of the reversed "N".

Many other retouches can be found, whose position on the sheet are presently unknown (Fig. 12). Some of these are: "U" instead of "N" in CINCISPREDECE"; heavy white dot on the head at 1 o'clock; colored spots defacing the letters in the spandrels containing the words "POSTA" and "ROMANA"; frame lines with gaps and imperfections.

The background of the portrait was retouched by brush, affecting thereby the contour of the head, chin, bust and sometimes the internal frame lines.

Printing Flaws:

This much used stamp was probably sometimes printed in haste, which would account for the inconsistent color, paper folds and occasional missing sections of design. Such printing flaws play an important role in establishing the sequence of printings. The same flaws, but in different stages, appear on several shades. As we have no official records of the printings and their amounts, we can thus proceed empirically by observation.

Many of the rose and stamps (March 1872) present printing flaws. They could be due to an old stone being brought back into use, without proper cleaning or correction. Thus we encounter a variety with a white

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

line in front of the mouth (somewhat like a cigarette) and the "B" in "BANI" broken at bottom, making it an "R".

Bisection:

This stamp too was cut into smaller units - mostly thirds in order to serve as 5 Bani units - and as such is very rare. For example, a letter posted in BACAU bears identical lower left corners of two 15 Bani stamps, paying the 10 Bani rate. The postmarks reads: BACAU/POSTA 21/12/71. (This item can be found illustrated in H.R. Harmer Sale Catalogue - London - 20/21 Nov. 1962).

Outstanding Items:

Unused multiples in rose, red and carmine are elusive, as well as used multiples in all shades. BOLGRAD was one of the post offices which did not receive sufficient 25 and 50 Bani stamps. In order to make up for this shortage, it used strips of 15 Bani combined with other values. Strips used in 1971 and 1872 are quite common (Fig. 13) but desirable when in combination with stamps of the 1868 and 1872/2 issues.

The second part of this study will be devoted to the examination of the bicolored 25 and 50 Bani top values.

REVIEW by **Mihail Popovici:**
DICTIONAR FILATELIC
(Philatelic Dictionary).

Written by **Marcel Danescu** and published in 1979 in Bucharest, Romania, it contains 222 pages, is hardbound and costs 35 lei. An excellent tool for philatelists, it fills a longstanding need in Romanian philatelic literature. The author presents and illustrates (with about 600 pictures and 32 color plates) over 1000 philatelic and historical terms, abbreviations, technical terminology concerning printing, etc.

The dictionary also includes a bibliography, a table of contents and a list of Romanian philatelic expressions with their German, French and English equivalents.

This book was published by "Editura Sport-Turism" and it has an edition of 20,500 copies. It is exceptionally well printed and its contents are bound to be informative and educational.

R. Phil Stud, NY, 1981, V, nr. 2

THE 1869 PRINCE CAROL ISSUE—THE HIGH VALUES

Dr. L.N. Cristea, Tengstrasse No. 20, Apt. 304, 8000 Munich 40, West Germany.

The 25 and 50 bani high values of this issue were the first bicolored stamps of Romania. The national colors were used, in two different combinations: yellow and blue for the 25 bani and blue and red for the 50 bani.

This interesting issue was studied at length and published in part in the LONDON PHILATELIST (June 1960) by the keeper of the English Royal Collection, the late Sir John Wilson. Most of the data below concerning color combinations are based on his finding, imparted during a talk at the Royal Philatelic Society of London that same year. He had promised to commit to paper his remarks and conclusions but - to my knowledge - never managed to do so. I had the priviledge of talking to him about these stamps on two further occasions when he added to the points raised during his public talk. I had the impression that he had not yet reached that stage in his research of putting on paper what he considered "provisional findings". Neverthless, I consider it important to record here some of my notes, based on information supplied by that eminent philatelic scholar, Sir John.

Design

In the first part (ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES, Volume 4, No. 2, 1980, page 5) it was noted that the bust line of the portrait displays a small colored dot, about 2/5 of the way from the bust on the 5, 10, 15 and early 50 bani stamps. In the case of the 25 bani this dot is the exception to the rule, usually being replaced by a slight gap. The same also applies to the later printings of the 50 bani.

At least 2 types of the frame design are found for the 25 bani and 3 for the 50 bani.

Printing Method

To obtain bicolored stamps, the printing had to be carried out in two separate operations. The printer first fed the paper on to the frame stone (yellow for the 25 bani and blue for the 50 bani) and then on to the portrait stone (blue for the 25 bani and red for the 50 bani). To place the head precisely aligned with respect to the frame's oval, the printer used some guide markings. These were a cross (appertaining to the frame stone) and a small circle (on the portrait stone), placed in the white margins of the sheets. A perfect match was insured by placing the center of the small circle on the intersection of the cross. When this operation was slightly imperfect white spaces (noticed on both high values) would result between the oval and the portrait's background. Given the primitive methods of printing, one can only admire the accuracy with which the printers carried out their task. To my knowledge, no prints of either the head or the frame alone have been found, which points to the fact that all printer's waste were promptly destroyed. (Stamps with just a blue frame, identified by some exhibitors as belonging to the 1869 issue, are, in fact, printer's waste of the 50 bani Emergency Issue of 1872). During the placement of the paper from the frame stone on to the head stone, some sheets lightly touched the latter stone. This left minute traces of color, which are classified as "misplaced medallions" by some collectors. In most cases we are actually dealing with only a very slight "kiss" during the alignment operation. No "true" double portraits have been recorded, so far.

The Transfer Blocks

It too three quarters of a century to correctly reconstruct the transfer-blocks of the 25 and 50 bani. A reference book used by most collectors (Die Rekonstruction der Umdruckblocks der rumanischen Briefmarkenausgaben von 1866-1872 - Berlin, 1933) by H. Birnbach incorrectly recorded several transfer-blocks, including the 5, 25 and 50 bani 1869. Birnbach had merely brought together within one book research of several authors before him. In the early thirties, numerous collectors, in Romania and abroad, noted discrepancies between some of their marginal items (left margin of sheet) and the transfer-blocks as recorded. Once more, Sir John Wilson put an end to the uncertainty by openly stating that the sequence within the transfer-blocks had to be changed as follows:

25 bani - Birnbach's type 3 is in fact type 1; type 4 is in fact type 2; type 1 is in fact type 3; type 2 is in fact type 4.

50 bani - Birnbach's type 4 is in fact type 1; type 1 is in fact type 2; type 2 is in fact type 3; type 3 is in fact type 4.

While the lower values' transfer-blocks included both the head and frame portions of the design, for the bicolored high values utilized one transfer-block for the frame and a second for the head. Sir John was the first to study the two as separate units. Logically the printer should have used transfer-blocks of four units for each, the head and the frame. But Sir John was of the opinion that while the frame transfer-block comprised 4 units, that of the head contained 8. It is regrettable that Sir John did not leave precise details regarding the 8 transfers, but the indications are that he was right. We must not forget that the head design is identical to that of the 1868 issue (whose transfer-block is composed of 8 units). The designer of the new 1869 issue had only changed the frame. This field of research is still open to devoted students.

The Lithographic Printing Stones

For the 25 bani the only stone identified for certain is Type IV (D). The key item identifying this stone is a lower right corner blovk in the collection of the late E. Cohen. (Figure 1):

2-X-X
3-4-X
X=blank space or sheet margin

Although we have no other irrefutable items to prove the existence of other stones, we must assume - given the lengthy time these stamps remained in use - that several stones were manufactured and it would be surprising that they should have all had the same configuration.

The 50 bani's blue frame had allowed closer study. It was printed, without any doubt, from at least three Type IV (D) stones. The Wilson Collection included the multiple necessary to prove this (Figure 2):

2-3-X-X
2-3-4-X
1-4-4-X
X-X-X-X

The three frame stones were used with five head stones. To illustrate combinations between the frame and head stones the following table proves helpful:

Fig. 1. The Cohen block

Fig. 2. The Wilson block

Frame:

a - Watery blue or light blue & sometimes greenish blue

b - Light blue with details well defined. (Includes the "folded-transfer" variety on stamps nos. 96-97.

Blue (Folded-transfer)

Deeper blue (Folded-transfer)

c - Metallic blue or indigo

Head:

1 - Geranium red. The background of the head covers well the blue oval frame. The bust is pointed and the ear well defined.

2 - Carmine, when well printed. This offers the "halo" brush retouches.

3 - Carmine, but head blurry. Unknown in mint condition.

4 - Red. Neck, hair and back of head with tool retouches.

5 - Brownish-red (Most of the surviving multiples.

This table should be considered a guide. Many more details could be added regarding shades, clarity of frame lines, lettering, shading lines, ear definition and constant varieties. Any collector with a sufficient number of such stamps can add details of his own.

Paper

The numerous printings of this issue lead to utilization of different qualities of paper. Both high values were printed at first on heavier white porous paper. In 1870-1871 the paper used was shinier and thinner. "Pelure" quality appears, as a great exception, probably the result of including some odd sheets during an emergency printing. Similarly, we note a shiny yellowish paper, which dulls the colors.

Color Combinations and Color Sequence: 25 Bani

The frame was at first (April 1869) printed in a watery yellow, with equally unclear blue heads. Printings which followed, in the middle of the same year, appeared in a firm, clear yellow, with a light blue head and a darker blue background. This is the period of the brush retouches. Between August 1869 and March-April 1870 the frame is orange and the heads a darker blue. In May-June 1870 the orange is combined with a light blue with a tendency to ultramarine (a rare shade). The yellow frame, with blue and dark blue heads, reappears in the July-October 1879 period. The last printings of this value were produced in orange with a tendency to red orange, combined with very dark blue or indigo heads. The red orange and indigo combination is rather scarce, especially used. The rarest 25 bani color combination encountered is light yellow with greenish blue. Multiples of this combination have not been recorded.

Transfer Substitution

Blocks of the 50 bani in the Wilson collection have revealed another peculiarity of the "b" frame stone. Stamp no. 61 in the sheet (row 5, column 5) is a substituted transfer (cliche type 2 instead of 1). That 5th horizontal row reads therefore:

1-2-3-4-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3-X-X

The lithographer, because of a faulty transfer, shifted everything right from the replaced transfer, one space to the left. He thereby created irregular vertical pairs and multiples in the main body of the sheet.

Retouches

As with the previous lithographed stamps, these two denominations were retouched both by tool and brush, to correct faults and/or improve poor definition caused by wear of the printing stones. The tool was used for outlining the contour of the head, ear, and for definition of the hair. Placing ink around the portrait by brush, aimed at insuring a clear definition of the head, but occasionally either impaired the actual contour of the effigy, or by spreading ink across the oval line affected details of the frame design.

These two values offer a series of retouches ranging from a simple line outlining the back of the head to such spectacular ones as heavy criss-cross lines in the hair (to cover bald patches) and several lines trying to restore a contour to the back of the head (creating the beginning of a "chignon"), or cutting off a part of the occiput. The brush background retouches lead some early catalogues of this century to mention a "reverses head" variety. In fact a "halo" effect was created by the portion not touched by the brush (Figures 3 and 4).

Fig. 4. Brush retouch

Constant Varieties

It is better to illustrate varieties than to describe them. I mention only two, one of which has never been publicized before. All serious Romania collectors know of the spectacular "folded-transfer" variety of the 50 bani, which occur on the positions 96 and 97 of the "b" frame stone, and therefore encountered on the 2, 3 and 4 head stones. The fold starts in the top left corner of the 97th stamp (which appears cut off) and continues with a break in the right vertical frame lines of the 96th stamp. Also affected is the numeral "5" in the lower right spandrel. This "5" has lost a part of its curl (Figure 5). When con-

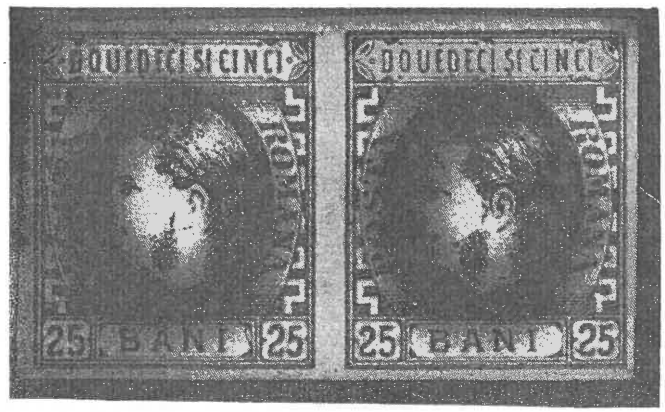


Fig. 3a Ear retouch by brush

Fig. 3b Tool retouches

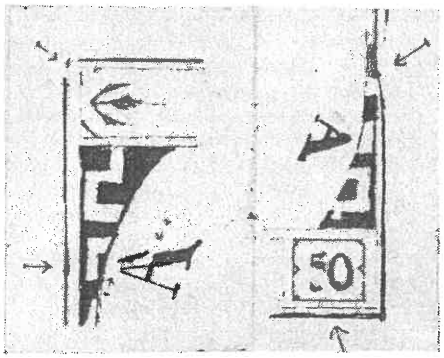


Fig. 5. Folded transfer variety

Fig. 6a
Broken "i"

Fig. 6b. Broken frame

Fig. 6c. Broken letters

Fig. 6d. Lower right corner

templating the 96th stamp, one has the impression that the transfer was cut by mistake and was put together again rather clumsily.

The second constant variety, in the frame design is that of the "split A" in "POSTA". The upper right part of the letter is split down to the transversal. Likewise, this variety pertains to the "b" frame stone (Figure 5).

Other constant varieties, for both top values, include colored dots in the value spandrels, slight deformation of the forehead and the nose, damaged letters and variation in size (due to paper contraction after printing). The varieties excite great interest as they can be tracked through the differing color combinations, and we can thus determine from which frame and head stone they originate (Figure 6).

Bisection

The 50 bani stamp is recorded cut in two on a December 1870 letter addressed to Vienna from Jassy. As the letter also displays a framed "PD" and an arrival postmark, its authentic postal usage, even if philatelically motivated, cannot be in doubt. Years ago, this item was in the collection of E. Cohen (of Lisbon, Portugal) (Figure 7).

Desirable Items

Given the long usage of the 1869 issue, some very strange and spectacular frankings can be found (Figures 8). The German philatelic vocabulary contains the terms "Buntfrankatur" for frankings including 2 or more values of the same issue, and "Mischfrankatur" for frankings containing stamps belonging to different issues which were in use simultaneously. The 1869 issue stamps can be found with stamps of both the previous issue of 1868, as well as the subsequent, "full-beard" stamps, in some most unusual combinations. High values of the 1869 issue in pairs, strips or blocks are not only desirable, but sometimes very scarce.

The fully dated postmarks, which include the year, introduced in October 1868 are exceedingly rare. Those of 1869 are rare, while those with the 1870 "millesime" are scarce. Stamps with 1871 and 1872 strikes are, however, common.

Fig. 7. Bisected use of 50 bani

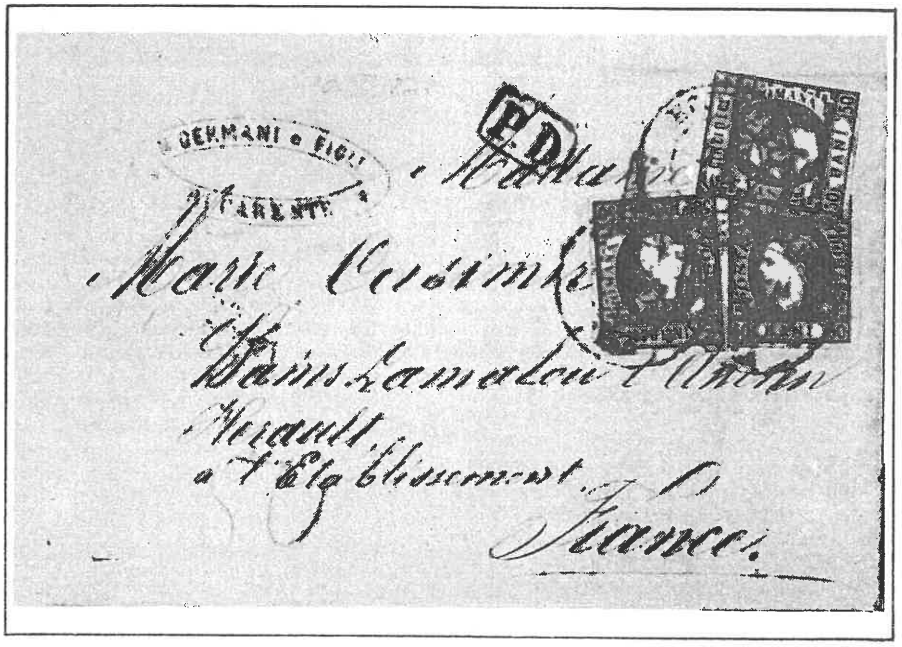


Fig. 8a. Spectacular franking

Rare Postmarks

There is no point in listing all the possible postmarks on the 1869 issue, in light of numerous good articles on this subject published in the last few years. It is nevertheless important to mention a few of the lesser known cancellations.

In October 1868 the old telegraph office in the Prince's Palace (Cotroceni Palace) was also entrusted with postal duties. Stamps, cancellers and postal forms were supplied a clerk appopnted. Research carried out by K. Dragomir of Bucharest, concludes that this office handled little OUTGOING mail. Its 26 mm. diameter single-circle postmark reads: "OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR". A three-tier date column shows the day, month and last two figures of year in Arabic numerals. Only two strikes have so far been found on stamps: a full strike reading "OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR / / 24/5/69" (Figure 9) on a 25 bani 1869 and a part strike, on the same value. Both were in London collections.

Fig. 9. "Oficiul Postal Princiar" Postmark

Rail service between Bucharest and Giurgiu began at the end of October 1869. Two days later post offices opened in both terminal stations: FILARET (in Bucharest) and GIURGIU. Each received stamps, cancellers and postal forms. The postmark of Filaret reads: "BUCURESTI (at top)/ OFF.POSTAL GAR.FIL. (at bottom)". The date appears on three tiers in Arabic numerals within the inner circle. The year is represented by its last three digits (i.e. 2/11/069). Its equivalent in Giurgiu reads: "GIURGIU (at top)/ OFF.POSTAL GARA (at bottom) with the date as by Filaret.

Fig. 8b. Spectacular franking

SECOND GOLD MEDAL

Romanian Philatelic Studies has been awarded a second GOLD medal. After having received several vermeil and silver medals at various national and international philatelic exhibitions, it obtained its first GOLD medal at STAMPSHOW 80. Just a few months later, the Chicago Philatelic Society, at their 1980 Stamp Exhibition, awarded our bulletin its second Gold medal.

The editor wishes to thank our most active researchers who supplied advanced studies; Silviu Dragomir of Bucharest; Dr. L.N. Cristea of Munich, West Germany; Don Heller of State College, Pennsylvania; David Gijiriguian of New York City, N.Y.; Gabriel Sassower of London, England; Ladislau Rothman of Israel; Dumitru Passalega of Craiova; Marcel Sapira of Bucharest and many others. A special thanks to our Secretary-Treasurer Mark Fromer, who proofread the articles and to all the members who financially supported the bulletin.

COUNTERFEITED RIVER BOAT MARKINGS

A recent discovery in Romania reveals that a large number of pictorial riverboat cancellations have been counterfeited. The creator of these "rare" postmarks is allegedly Grigore Cuculis of Tulcea, author of an article on this subject published in our No. 1/1979 bulletin and winner of several high awards at various exhibitions. After this discovery, the gold medal awarded him at the Nationala '80 exhibition in Bucharest was withdrawn. His exhibit, full of postcards and covers bearing counterfeited markings, was confiscated.

In one of our next issues we will publish a detailed article of this subject, with illustrations of both the genuine and the counterfeit markings.

R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, nr. 1

PRINTING IRREGULARITIES OF THE SECOND ROMANIAN WRAPPER (1871)

by David Gijiriguiann 154-16 24th Rd. Whitestone, N.Y. 1357.

The philatelic literature offers a satisfactory general description of the Romanian wrappers. To mention only the most recent studies, the Romanian Catalogue (1974) on pages 469-471 offers a good description of the first two wrappers. Also in ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES, nos. 1 and 2, 1978 Mr. Dumitru Passalega, a well known authority in Romanian Postal Stationery researches, gives historical and descriptive details of the Romanian wrappers.

In this article we present some printing irregularities of the second wrapper, chosen from a relatively large lot. It should be noted that even the wrappers that do not present irregularities have a few faults which can be observed in all of them. (See: Wrapper no. 2, General type). These general irregularities are the following:

General Type

a). Two dots after A of POSTA

b). Irregular design of the angular ornament between the two circular frames, above the last I of PERIODICE

c). The right leg of M in ROMANA has no serif.

Besides these general faults a number of wrappers presents irregularities due to the fact that the plates became worn, some defects appeared, and in some cases slight retouches were necessary. It was not possible to find a certain continuity in the pattern of the irregularities. These irregularities appear mostly on wrappers printed on yellow-orange paper, a fact which might suggest that these are a later printing as compared to those printed on yellow paper.

Numbered from 1 to 24 we show below some of the irregularities we could identify:

1: a). Broken lower part of the letter O in POSTA, and the inner circle under it.
   b). Dot in the fraction line of ½, left.

2: Small break in the inner rectangular frame line in front of T of POSTA.

3: a). Dot on the fraction line of right ½.
   b). Small break of the inner rectangular frame line in front of N of ROMANA.
   c). Color spots between O and M of ROMANA.

4: a). Small break of the outer rectangular frame line between P and O of POSTA.
   b). Oblique white hairline above E of DIARE.
   c). White dot behind the neck in the effigy.

5: White hairline breaking the outer rectangular frame and the upper part of letter A in POSTA.

6: a). Outer rectangular frame broken in front of O of ROMANA.
   b). Inner rectangular frame broken between N and A of ROMANA.

7: a). Outer rectangular frame broken above 2 of right ½.

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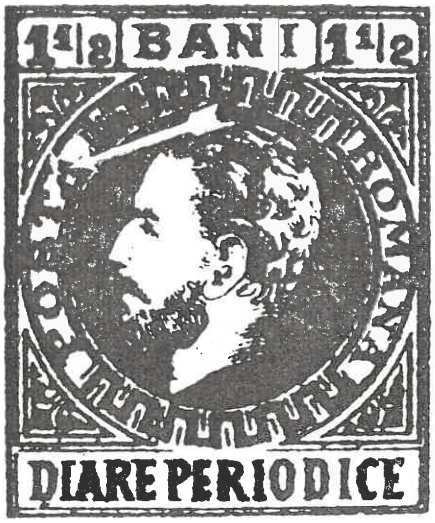

5

b). White hairline under the chin.
c). Broken frame of the lower left triangular ornament.

8: a). Irregular broken design of the angular ornament above O of PERIODICE.
b). Color hairline below left 2.
c). White hairline in front of the neckline.

9: a). Outer circular frame broken between S and T of POSTA.
b). Color hairline under the ear.
c). Color dots in and in front of M in ROMANA.

10: Shorter vertical line in left ½.

11: a). Color dot in front of P of POSTA.
b). Irregular broken design of the angular ornament above P of PERIODICE.

12: a). Space between two rectangular frames filled with ink, above A of BANI.
b). Thick A in BANI.
c). Color dot above I of BANI.
d). Inner rectangular frame broken in front of R of ROMANA.

13: a). Vertical line starting below the right 2 of ½.

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b). Spots in the inner white circle under S and T of POSTA.

14: Vertical line starting at the fraction line of right ½ and continuing through the lower rectangular frame under last E of PERIODICE.

15: a). White dot on the upper part of B in BANI.
b). White hairline on the second I of PERIODICE breaking the frame above.

16: The left leg of A in BANI longer than the right leg.

17: a). White dot in the upper serif of I in BANI.
b). Color dot under P of POSTA.
c). Color dot outside the rectangular frame, on the lower right side.

18: Inner circle broken after A of POSTA.

19: a). The left leg of N in BANI thinner than the right leg.
b). color dot between the right fraction line and 2.

20: Broken outer rectangular frame in front of T of POSTA.

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21: a). White hairline under A of POSTA.
b). Color hairline above D of PERIODICE.

22: a). Two color hairlines above E of DIARE.
b). The outer and inner rectangular frames repaired between B and A of BANI.

23: a). Two color hairlines above E of DIARE.
b). White dot on lower part of C in PERIODICE.

24: a). The outer and inner rectangular frames broken between O and D of PERIODICE.
b). Color dot above the first I of PERIODICE.
c). Outer rectangular frame broken between O and S of POSTA.
d). R of PERIODICE thick, color dots under R inside the two rectangular frames.
e). Irregularities in the design of the ornament above RI of PERIODICE.

The study of these wrappers demonstrates once again how fascinating the study of postal stationery could become, and how often we may encounter new opportunities in this field. We believe that signaling these varieties to the philatelic community will push the collectors in studying other wrappers and postal stationery materials.

SPECIAL CANCELS

by Ladislau Rothman, 29 Metza Street, Ramat Chen, Israel.

SPECIAL CANCELS FOR NEWSPAPERS

Right from the beginning, mailing of newspapers was a special preoccupation of the Romanian posts, fact reflected by various methods of mailing and the various postal markings used at different times.

Stamps for newspapers, wrappers with printed stamps and the circular cancel with the inscription *"ZIARE"* (newspapers) or *"EXPED. ZIARE"* (mailing of newspapers) are well-known.

There also existed, little known and in small number, cancels with the name of the newspaper, probably some kind of *"publisher's post office"* cancels.

I succeeded in identifying three of these types, as follows:

BUCURESCI No. 5 date INDEPENDANCE ROUMAINE,

ELLENZEK date CLUJ (newspaper in Hungarian, published in Cluj between WWI and WWII),

LAPKIADOK date ? (*"newspaper publishers"*, probably having a general use for newspapers published in Hungarian).

I should be noted that on these types of cancels, besides the name of the city written in Romanian, the names of the newspapers are reproduced exactly in the original foreign languages (French and Hungarian).

It is also worth mentioning a perfin with the name of the ADEVERUL newspaper because this perforation was also done with the approval of the postal authorities.

ORIENT EXPRESS

Very little was written on the postal services done on the ORIENT EXPRESS train. Tchilinghirian & Stephen in *"Austrian Post Offices Aboard"* (page 279), chapter *"K) Mail via Orient Express Railway"* described this mail transport, presenting its various types of cancels.

ORIENT EXPRESS

In addition to the cancels presented in this work, other types were also used. For example, I have in my collection a postcard, mailed from St. Gallen, Switzerland (February 21, 1918) to Constantinople (through Romania) bearing a rectangular Z55 x 5mm) *"ORIENT EXPRESS"* cancel.

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB meets on every first SATURDAY of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th St., corner of 3rd Ave., New York City, N.Y.

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB membership is open to those interested in Romanian philately and postal history. The fee of $5.00 includes a subscription to the quarterly bulletin: ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.

Send your check payable to ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB to Miron Abramovivi, 209 Berger St., Somerset, N.J. 08873.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1977, 1, 2, 3, 4, of 1978) can be ordered for $1.00/copies.

Editors of philatelic magazines and club bulletins are invited to help the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES by publishing reviews.

R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1980, IV, nr 2.

AN UNRECORDED VARIETY OF THE 3 BANI "CAROL WITH VULTURE"

I. Hudisteanu, 10 Syki Ings, Iver, Bucks, SLO 9ET England.

I have had for quite a while a "Carol with vulture" 3 Bani stamp (Scott #76), violet on white paper, perf. 13½, with a c.d.s. FEB (year unclear) showing a white line starting from below the left number 3 in the bottom corner and running through the lower half of the letters A, N and I of the word BANI and then through the lower half of the bottom right number 3 and both inner and outer frame.

I took it to be due to a printing accident as it was not mentioned in the fairly comprehensive illustrated list of varieties of this issue in the Catalogue of The Romanian Postage Stamps of 1974, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, where 7 varieties are listed, of which 5 illustrated of the 3 Bani, some of them minute.

To my pleasant surprise, I have now found two more specimens showing the same flaw, one of the same color and perforation (CMPR #58a, Scott #76) with a c.d.s. JAN (year again unclear), the other one a CMPR #71 (Scott #89) i.e. perf. 11½ x 13½, coat-of-arms impressed watermark, the fraction of the c.d.s. does not show the date.

In my opinion, this could no longer be the case of an accidental flaw, but a proper variety, hitherto unrecorded.

I would be grateful to hear from any reader, who may have heard, read or noticed this variety, perhaps know even the position of the plate, and there may even be retouches correcting this scratch.

A NEWLY REPORTED MARITIME CANCELLATION

Silviu Dragomir, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Recently I found a maritime cancellation which should be denoted S.M.R. 1.2.13.3., using the classification system adopted in "Romanian Maritime Cancels" (see Romanian Philatelic Studies, nos. 2 and 3, 1979).

The single circle cancellation (which I found on a postcard) is 30.5 mm in diameter. In its center, inside of a 9.5 mm wide band is the date: day, month (in Roman numerals) and year (the last three digits). BIR. AMB. (curved) and MARITIN (straight), spelled with "N" instead of "M," both appear in the upper spandrel. The lower spandrel shows CONSTANTA (straight) and ALESANDRIA (curved and spelled with "S" instead of "X"O. The date of use is 24 XII. 934 (Dec. 24, 1934).

The card's text reads: " . . . I write you from on board the Dacia, two hours before our arrival to the Bosphorus . . . ". The card, addressed to Bucharest, arrived there on Dec. 27, 1934.

From the test and the markings we can draw the following conclusions:

The S.M.R. 1.2.13.3. cancellation was used on Dacia;

It was applied on shipboard by a postal clerk or crew member having his duties;

Furthermore it was utilized for all the correspondence posted on board;

Mail sent in the opposite direction of the course of navigation was placed in postal bags and handed over to the post office in the first port of call;

The fact that no other marking (such as transit marking) can be found on the card leads us to believe that correspondence from the Dacia (and other ships) addressed to Romania was put in mail bags and forwarded from Constantinople without further sorting or handling, except in the city of destination where it received an arrival marking (in this case, in Bucharest).

This cancellation is the counterpart of S.M.R. 1.2.13.2. used in the opposite direction, from Alexandria (Egypt) to Constanta (Romania), perhaps on the very same ship.

REVIEW:

Catalogue of the AEROMFILA '79 Philatelic Exhibition.

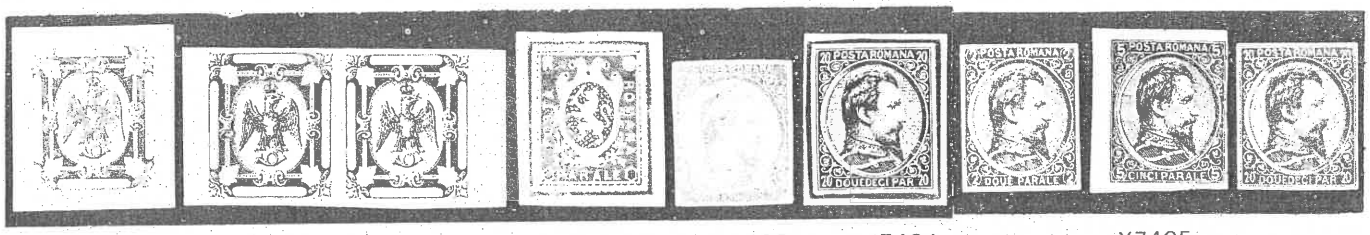
Exhibition catalogues can be useful tools for research oriented philatelists. From lists of exhibitors and exhibits, it can be seen, who is collecting and what is being collected and studied. Advantageous contacts can be established to exchange information as well as interesting philatelic material. Original and informative studies by leading specialists in various fields are often included.

This excellently printed catalogue of the international aerophilatelic exhibition held in Bucharest in October 14-22, 1979, runs 82 pages. Besides the customary rules and regulations of the exhibition (written in Romanian, French and German), it contains a list of exhibitors and exhibits.

Its key-note article, "50 Years since the Flight of LZ-127 Zeppelin on the Balkan Route" is written by a leading Romanian aerophilatelist, Alexandru Bartoc. This study, richly illustrated, is likewise in Romanian, French and German. Bartoc also presents a list of 170 first and special flights, made by Romanian or foreign airlines to or from Romania. He gives dates, routes, airline companies, types of planes and whether special covers and/or cancellations were used. This lists illustrates 114 such cancels.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1977, 1, 2, 3, 4, of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1979, 1, 2 of 1980 can be ordered for $1.00/copy.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS FROM THE OCT. 10, 1979 Roger Koerber AUCTION CATALOGUE

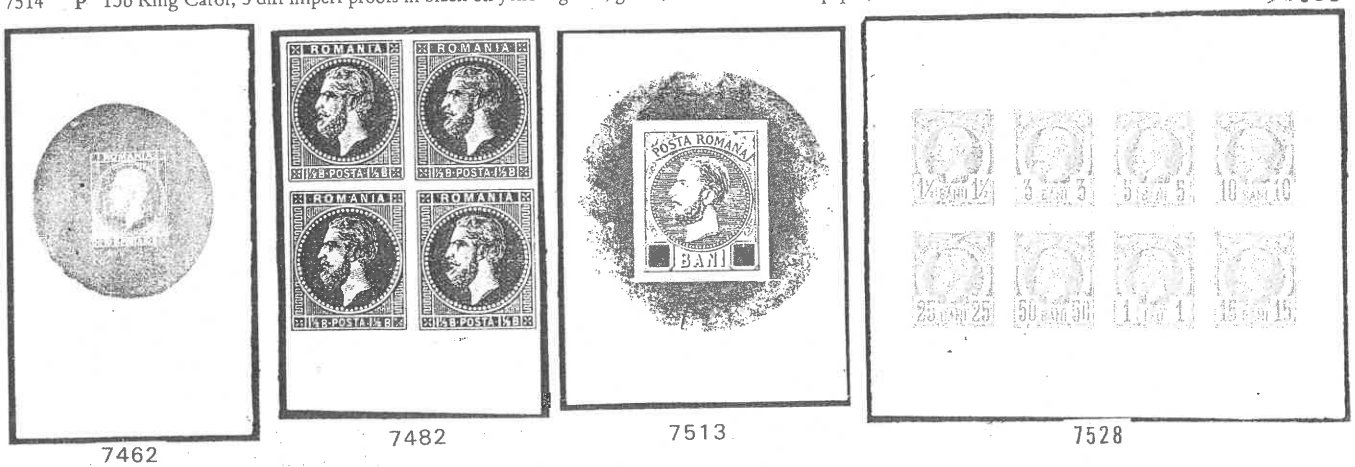


X7400 X7401 X7402 7403 7404 X7405

Lot		Description	Reference	Evaluation	Prices realized
7400	E	**1865** Essays for the first issue of the United Principalities, first proposal, central Eagle with blank tablets around, 4 die proofs in olive green, yellow brown, dark orange and cobalt blue on China paper, vf.	PHOTO	$160	$125.00
7401	E	Essays for the first issue of the United Principalities, first proposal, central Eagle with blank tablets around, 4 pairs of imperf plate proofs in green, brown, carmine and black, vf.	PHOTO	$160	125.00
7402	E	Essays showing rampant Lion with Sword, embossed, blue and carmine, third proposal, og, vf.	PHOTO	$60	70.00
7403	E	Essay of Prince Cuza facing r, fourth proposal, unfinished die proof in blue with value tablet at b blank, unknown to Cohen, shallow thinning and pinhole, a fine example of this scarce essay.	PHOTO	$125	80.00
7404	E	Essay of Prince Cuza, fourth proposal die proof of 20pa deep brownish purple with extra frame around ouside design, unknown thus to Cohen, shallow thinning, fine and scarce.	PHOTO	$125	80.00
7405	E	**Essays of Prince Cuza facing r, fourth proposal, 24 diff imperf color proofs of the finished design, five 2pa, thirteen 5pa and seven 20pa (one thinned), with many colors unknown to Cohen, f-vf, a rare group difficult to assemble.**	PHOTO	$450	–

7411 7412 7415 7442 X7463 X7464 7473 X7514

7411	P	**1866** 2pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on lilac tinted carton, vf.	PHOTO #29; Cohen #V1	$60	60.00
7412	P	2pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on violet tinted carton, vf.	PHOTO #29; Cohen #V2	$60	57.50
7415	P	5pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on yellowish tinted carton, f-vf.	PHOTO #30; Cohen #V6	$50	52.50
7442	P	**Plate proof of the blue frame of the 50b alone, unknown to Cohen, very rare and attractive, vf.**	**PHOTO #42**	**$250**	–
7463	—	1½-10b Carol with beard new design an example of the decoupage made from card stock showing 1, 2 and 3 layer build up to obtain the fine impression of the Paris prints, a combination of color making for a very attractive and scarce unit.	PHOTO #53-56	$125	80.00
7464	P	Carol with beard Paris prints, 4 plate proofs in unissued colors incl 1½b blue, 10b bistre gray and two 50b in diff shades of gray, 3 with minor thins o/w f-vf.	#53, 56, 59[2 ×]	$75	75.00
7473	P	10b Carol Paris print plate proof in issued color on slightly yellowish paper, imperf pair with partial sheet margin at r, vf.	PHOTO #56	$50	52.50
7514	P	15b King Carol, 5 diff imperf proofs in black on yellow green, green, rose buff and blue paper, vf.	PHOTO #73	$75	50.00



7462 7482 7513 7528

7462	P	**PARIS PRINTS 1872** 10b Carol with beard new design unfinished large die proof in negative oval printed on piece measuring 55 × 95mm, vf and rare.	PHOTO #56	$200	125.00
7482	⊞P	1½b Carol Bucharest printing, black plate proof imperf blk of 4 on yellowish proof paper, sheet margin at b, vf.	PHOTO #60	$60	47.50
7513	P	**1880** New King Carol type, large die proof in black with blank value tablets, attractive and vf, scarce.	PHOTO type A12	$150	125.00
7528	P	**Vulture issue in composite sheetlet of 8 values in blue gray incl all the issued values plus the unissued 1L, vf and scarce in uncut sheets.**	PHOTO type A13	$250	–

Printed by NEZ PERCE PRINTING & PUBLICATIONS, P.O. Box 306, Lapwai, Idaho 83540

R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1983, VII, m.3.

The "PEARLS" Issue of 1880

Leonard Pascanu Aleea Politehnicii No.6, bl. 3, sc. 2, et. 4, apt. 20, 77213 Bucharest, Romania

The "Pearls" stamps (Scott #73, 74) of July 1880 were issued because the cliches engraved in Paris by Albert Barre in 1873 for the "Paris" and "Bucharest" issues had become worn out. New cliches were engraved for the most frequently used denominations, 15 and 25 bani (Fig. 1). According to the French researcher Georges Brunel, however, these two stamps were issued mainly because the numerals indicating the denominations on the previous issues had been too small, and caused confusion.

Fig. 1

The design, identical for both denominations, shows Prince Carol facing left. A circular frame of 86 pearls surrounds the portrait, hence the name for this issue. The denomination appears in the lower corners. The stamps have a rectangular frame with the frame line being thicker on top and at right than at bottom and on the left. The design measures 18½ by 22¾ mm. However, because of inaccuracies in the perforating process, the overall size of 20 - 22½ by 23¾ - 24½ mm. (from perforation tip to perforation tip) shows wide variations.

Printing and Proofs

The printing, done at the *"Imprimeriile Statului"* (State Printing Plant) in Bucharest, was by typography. The printing plate contained 130 cliches, arranged in 13 horizontal rows of 10 stamps.

For this issue, various printing and color proofs were made, on various kinds of paper, ranging from thin to cardboard. The sheet arrangements, colors and paper types are similar to those of the 1876-1897 *"Paris-Bucuresti I"* issues. Proofs in sheet of 130 (13 rows of 10 stamps) are known. Also minisheets of 12 (block of 10 (2x5) plus one on each side of the block) were produced on various types of paper. Many proofs were overprinted in black or blue diagonally, from top-left to bottom-right, with *"PROJECT"* or *"PROJECT ANULAT"*. Besides the types of proofs described by Eduardo Cohen in *"Contribution a l'Etude des Essais des Timbre-Poste de Roumanie"* (Lisbon, 1945), we illustrate in fig. 2 a type so far unrecorded; printed on thin, silky, colored paper, its overall size is 220 by 69 mm. The upper right shows this proof, the 25 bani denomination, printed in black. I know this type of proof in 17 different colors of paper.

Paper and Colors

The issued stamps were printed on white paper of various thicknesses and features. Until recently, it had been thought that only

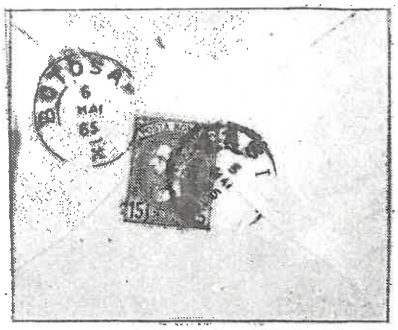


Fig. 3

unwatermarked paper was used for this issue. Recently, D. Gheorghian discovered a 15 bani stamp (now in the E. Savoiu collection) with a *"PR"* watermark in the reversed, upright position ("position 2").

The color of the 15 bani is brown, while that of the 25 bani is blue, each in a large variety of nuances and shades. The intensity of the brown varies from pale to dark, while the hues include red brown and rose brown. The blue intensity varies from light to dark and copies with an ultramarine hue are also found.

Perforation

These stamps were line perforated with the same machines as the previous issues were. Various perforations exist: A (13½); B (11½); B1 (11); C (11½x13½) and D (13½x11½). As Don Heller stated in "The 1880 Prince Carol Issue" (Romanian Philatelic Studies., No. 1/1977), these are approximate figures. More accurate measurements using an *"Instanta Perforation Gauge"* show that 11¼ and 13 ⅓ perforations also exist. These small differences were due to the rudimentary perforating machines and procedures as well as possible paper shrinkage. Perforation A (13½) on the 15 bani stamp is extremely rare; most of these stamps with perf. 13½ have been fraudalently re-perforated. Only those used on cover (Fig. 3) should be considered, without any doubt, as genuinely perforated.

The 15 bani is known in pairs, horizontally perforated 11½ or 13½ but vertically imperforate. The 25 bani in known in pairs, vertically perforated 11½ or 13½ but horizontally imperforate. The Kohl catalogue mentions both the 15 and 25 bani stamps existing imperforate and being postally used. In reality, these are proofs which on very rare occasions were postally used, and thus, are extremely scarce and valuable.

Varieties

Both denominations are known with guide lines, seen as narrow lines on the top, bottom, left or right margins of the stamps. Another variety known consists of dots in the medallion. A variety so far unrecorded shows three colored dots among the letters of the word *"BANI"*.

Don Heller, in his article, illustrated two design varieties of the 15 bani, each with doubled lines of the number *"15"*, due to

Fig. 4. Left

Fig. 5 Right

Fig. 6

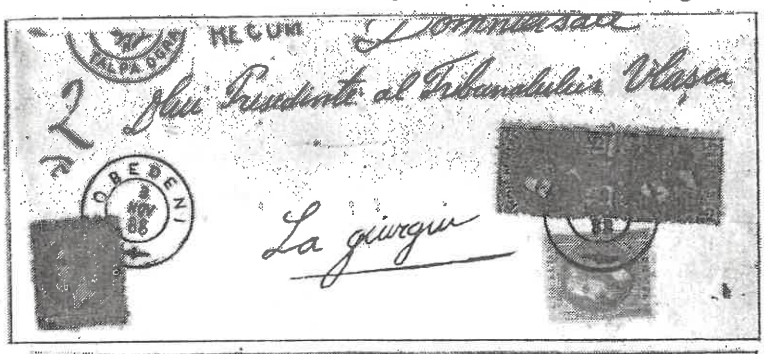


Fig. 7

Fig. 2

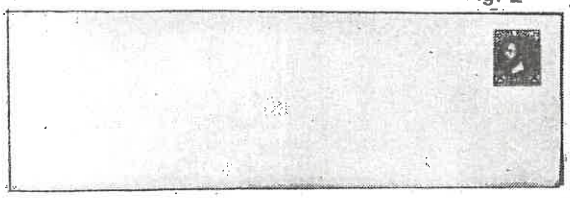


Fig. 8

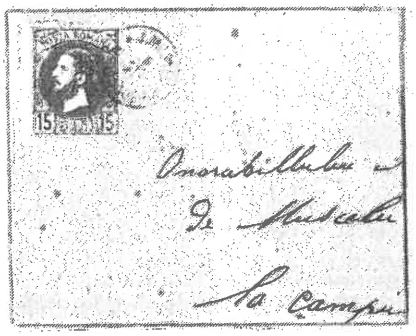


Fig. 9

reentry of the numerals during repairs:

a) the left numeral *"15"* is doubled, the right is normal (Fig. 4),

b) the left numeral *"15"* is normal, the right is doubled (Fig. 5).

Period of Use

The *"Pearls"* stamps were issued in July 1880 and used concomitantly with the *"Bucuresti II"* and *"Vulture"* issues. Fig. 6 shows a cover with mixed franking consisting of *"Bucuresti II"* 5 and 50 bani stamps and a vertical pair of the 15 bani *"Pearls"*. It was written in the village of *"TALPA OGRAZII"*, where the notary's marking was applied; the stamps were obliterated at the rural post office of *"OBEDENI"* on Nov. 3, 1888. Its arrival is attested to by a single circle *"GIURGIU"* marking, dated *"4 NOV 88"*. This cover shows a very late use of both the *"Pearls"* and *"Bucuresti II"* stamps. Figs. 7, 8 and 9 show covers bearing stamps of the *"Pearls"* issue, some obliterated with interesting and rare postal markings.

Considering that not too many of these stamps are around (they are now about 100 years old), their prices should be much higher than those listed in catalogues. On cover they are scarce, and thus expensive.

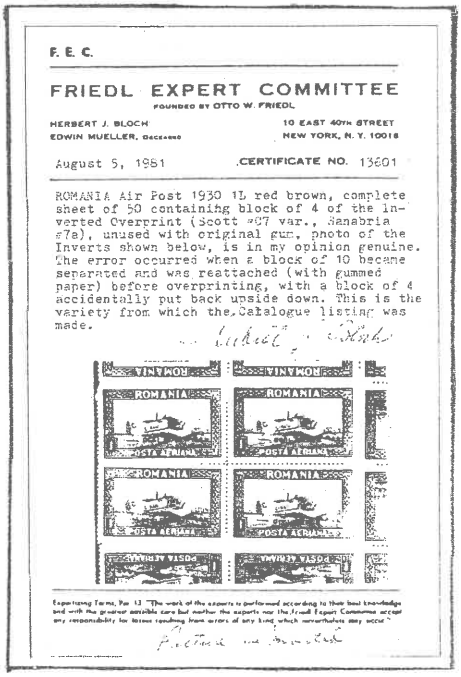
SCARCE AEROPHILATELIC ERRORS

George Pataki

In the Herbert Klein (of Queens, N.Y.) collection, among other interesting items, are two full sheets out of a set of three Romanian airmail stamps. First issued in 1928, these were later overprinted "8 IUNIE 1930" in 1930. The overprinted sets, as the unoverprinted ones, show vertical or horizontal wavy line watermarks. The 1 Leu and 2 Lei sheets in Klein's collection are overprinted and display horizontal wavy line watermarks. Scott lists them as C7 and C8.

What is unusual about these sheets of 50 is that they contain inverted overprints. The 1 Leu bears a block of 4 of the inverted overprint (positions 19, 20, 24 and 25) while the 2 Lei shows a horizontal pair (positions 16 and 17). As Herbert J. Bloch, of the Friedl Expert Committee, states in certificates Nos. 13,601 and 13,602 of Aug. 5, 1981, the errors occurred when a block of 4, and a horizontal pair, respectively, became separated. These were reattached, with gummed paper on their backs, before overprinting. Accidentally, they were put back upside down.

These errors are unlisted by most catalogues, such as Scott, Minkus, Michel, Gibbons, Yvert, Zumstein or the



F. E. C.

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EDWIN MUELLER, DECEASED

10 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

August 5, 1981 CERTIFICATE NO. 13601

ROMANIA Air Post 1930 1L red brown, complete sheet of 50 containing block of 4 of the inverted Overprint (Scott #C7 var., Sanabria #7a), unused with original gum, photo of the Inverts shown below, is in my opinion genuine. The error occurred when a block of 10 became separated and was reattached (with gummed paper) before overprinting, with a block of 4 accidentally put back upside down. This is the variety from which the Catalogue listing was made.

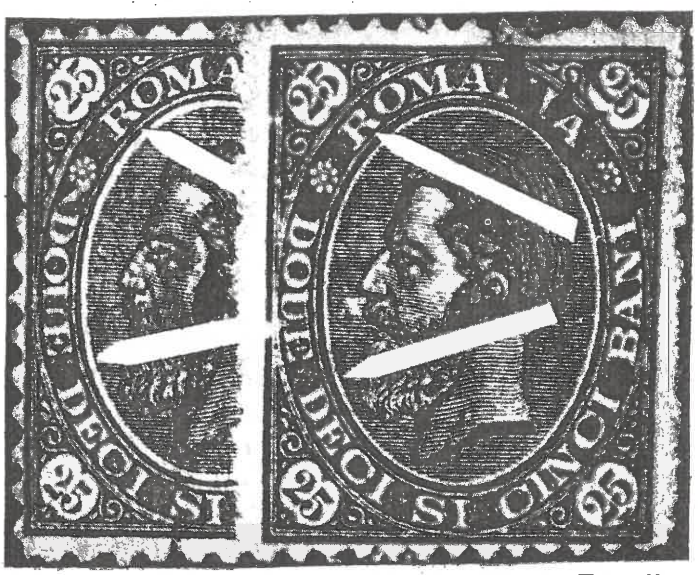
R. Phil. Stud., N.4 - 1984, VIII, nr. 2.

Counterfeits of the "Numerals in 4 Corners" Issue

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

The "Numerals in 4 corners" sets (Scott #94-107, Minkus #99-112, Michel #76-89, Gibbons #251-291, Zumstein #76-89) were issued during the Jan. 1890-Jan. 1894 period, first with a coat-of-arms pseudo watermark, later unwatermarked. The denominations which make up the sets are: 1½, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 Bani. Dr. Frantisek Novak (of Prague, Czechoslovakia) and Alfred Nicolau (of Craiova, Romania) have extensively researched these stamps. Dr. Novak published his findings in No. 2/1960 of the Romanian magazine Filatelia, while Nicolau's studies, which extend to the counterfeits, appear in Nos. 11 and 12/1969 of the same publication.

This article focuses on forgeries of the two highest denominations. As they have been found in collections formed in the 1890's, it is most likely that such counterfeits date to around the period of usage of the genuine stamps. It is thus possible that they were produced not only to deceive collectors but also for fraudulent postal use. Forgeries cancelled with genuine postmarks, preferably on cover, have to be yet presented as proof of this hypothesis. Furthermore, it is possible that other denominations, besides the 25 and 50 Bani exist as counterfeits.



Type I — Fig. 1 Genuine — Type II

25 BANI Genuine

The genuine 25 Bani comes in 2 types. In both types the letter "R" of "ROMANIA" appears under the upper left box containing the numerals "25". However there are some differences. Fig. 1 (at left) shows type I, on which the box center, if extended towards the letter "R", would touch the left side of the "R" 's vertical leg. Type II has that imaginary line cutting the right side of the "R" 's vertical leg as shown in Fig. 1 (at right). The upper pair of white arrows in the illustrations mark these points of difference. The lower pair point to other differences. The oval frame around the effigy is made up of 3 oval lines. the interior and exterior ones are white while the middle one is blue, the color of the stamp. On type I, the inside white oval line is thicker than the other two. On type II the blue oval line is the thickest. The exterior white oval line is thin in both cases. Furthermore, the distance from the center of the left rosette to the left side of the "R" 's vertical leg measures 2.3 mm. on type I, but only 2.1 mm. on type II. On all genuine stamps the line indicating the back of the neck is clear and strong.. The letters, numerals, ornaments and the oval frame lines are precisely and finely drawn. The paper is smooth and white. The perforation gauges 11½, 13½, 11½x13½ or 13½x11½.

25 Bani Counterfeit #1

Fig. 2 shows the first counterfeit. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" appears more to the left and the second letter "A" in "ROMANIA" more to the right than on either genuine type. Thus, the word "ROMANIA" appears longer than on the genuine. The center of the left rosette is spaced only 1.3 mm. from the letter "R". The back neck line lacks good definition. The perforation gauges 13.

25 Bani Counterfeit #2

Fig. 3 depicts the second type of counterfeit. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" is more to the left than on the genuine type II but not as much as on the first counterfeit.

Fig. 2. Counterfeit #1

Fig. 3 Counterfeit #2

Fig. 4 Genuine

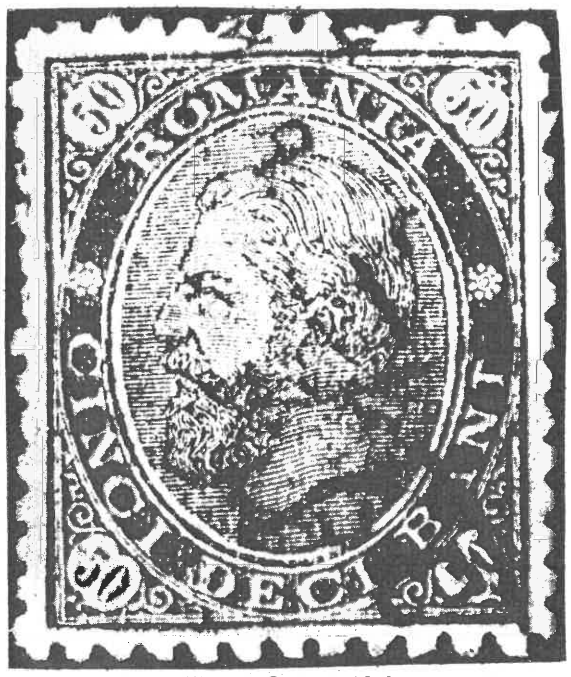


Fig. 5 Counterfeit

The oval frame surrounding the effigy resembles that on the genuine type I, in as much as the inside white frame is thicker than the blue frame. This counterfeit also resembles genuine type II stamps as far as the "R" 's vertical leg's left side being 2.1 mm. away from the left rosette's center. The back neck line appears very unclear. Its 13½x13 perforation does not match any on authentic copies.

The drawings of both these counterfeits are not as sharp as those on the genuine stamps. The ornaments appear less fine, the oval frame less precisely drawn, the numerals generally thinner and the letters thicker that those on the genuine stamps. The ink is less saturated. The watermark, when it exists, is barely visible. Both 25 Bani counterfeits are found mint or cancelled.

50 Bani Genuine

Fig. 4 depicts the genuine 50 Bani stamp. The "R" of "ROMANIA" is centered under the "5" of "50". The second "C" in "CINCI" is situated above the "5" of the lower left "50". The distance from the center of the left rosette to the "R" is 4 mm. and to the "C" in "CINCI" is 3.5 mm. The back of the neck is clearly defined and the drawing is fine and precise. Perforations of 11½, 13½, 11½x13½ and 13½x11½ exist.

50 Bani Counterfeit

Fig. 5 illustrates the 50 Bani counterfeit. This denomination seems to be better drawn than the 25 Bani counterfeits. The letter "R" in "ROMANIA" is further to the right than on the genuine stamp. The second "A" in the same word is more to the left than on the genuine stamp. Thus the word "ROMANIA" is shorter on the counterfeit than on the genuine. The second "C" in "CINCI" is well in front of the lower left numberal "5" in "50" while on the genuine stamp it is directly above it. The distance between the center of the left rosette and the letter "R" in "ROMANIA" measures 5 mm. and to the first letter "C" in "CINCI" it is 2 mm. The perforation, 12½x13½, or close to this, does not occur on genuine stamps. The outline at back of King Carol's neck is not clear.

Bearing in mind the above characteristics, collectors may check their stamps and separate genuine ones from counterfeits.

The "AJUTORAREA INFOMETATILOR BASARABIEI" Bogus Overprint

George Pataki

The 1920-1926 period saw the issue of several printings of the "Ferdinand - small effigy" definitives. With available quantities large, the stamps were very cheap. A private group, to be able to sell some for higher prices, in 1923, unofficially surcharged three denomination. The Postmaster General did not give approval for this issue. The three-line text is followed by new value as follows: "AJUTORAREA/INFOMETAȚILOR/BASARABIEI/denomination". This translates as "assistance for the starving Bessarabians", suggesting that the overprinting was for charitable purpose.

The following stamps received overprints:

The 3 Bani black (Scott 261, Michel 264, Gibbons 923) bears a red overprint and the new value of "1 Leu";

The 60 Bani gray green (Scott 268, Michel 271, Gibbons 930) shows a black overprint and the new value of "Lei 2";

The 6 Lei blue (Scott 278, Michel 281, Gibbons 940) received a red overprint and the new value of "Lei 5".

This overprint is neither a forgery nor a counterfeit, as it does not try to duplicate a genuine overprint. It is a bogus overprint, a fantasy of its creators. Thus no foreign catalogue lists these overprinted stamps. Some Romanian catalogues do mention their existence, without illustrating them. Their description, however, omit the word "Basarabiei" because this formerly Romanian territory is now a part of the Soviet Union and the Romanians do not want to hurt Russian feelings by mentioning it in any way.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

R. Phil. Stud., Ng., 1978, II, m-4

The Forgeries of the Mail Coach Issue

by **Gustav Noska, str. Lamiitei No. 48, 75278 Bucharest, Romania.**

The "Mail Coach" issue of 1903 (Scott #158-165) is a Romanian jubilee issue, prepared in 1901 but released only on May 1, 1903. All these stamps are of a single design, showing a mail coach leaving a relay station in a hurry. The set of 8 values was engraved by M. Theverin and reproduced typographically in the printing shop of the French government, in Paris.

The design illustrates an early stagecoach used to transport mail and one passenger, till about the turn of the century. The format is rectangular in a horizontal position.

The 8 values of this set were printed in the following colors and quantities:

1 ban	- light brown	- 500,000
3 bani	- brown-violet	- 300,000
5 bani	- green-yellow	- 400,000
10 bani	- light rose	- 400,000
15 bani	- black	- 500,000
25 bani	- light blue	- 100,000
40 bani	- light green	- 100,000
50 bani	- orange	- 100,000

The paper is thin, fine, white-rose and the gum is yellowish. The perforation is 14x13½. Some stamps (from sheet margins) have a watermark, portions from "Johannot et Cie Annonay", the name of the paper manufacturing company.

Despite the relative large quantities printed, these stamps were forged more than once. The forgeries were made photographing the originals, retouching and lithographing them. Therefore they can be well distinguished from the originals which were typographed.

One way to recognize the original is by the characteristics of typography: neat and vigurous contours, and small breaks in the lines of the design.

The forgeries present the characteristics of lithography: no neat contours, the roughness of the stone showing, slight smudge of the ink and the design is unrefined. Through retouching some of the details in the design of the forgeries were changed.

There are two types of forgeries known, slightly different from the known original and one from another. Comparing the original with the forgeries (Types I and II) here are some of the differences:

On the original, the outside frame is made of a thin line, a frame imitating a perforation and other two parallel lines which don't touch either the pseudo-perforation, nor each other. On Type I forgery, these two lines are thicker and touch on several points both the wavy line of the simulated perforation and each other. On Type II forgery, one of the two inside lines is thicker, the other one is thinner, and the outside line is broken in some places.

On the original, the inside frame is broken near the roof of the relay station. On both forgeries, this does not happen.

The roof shingles of the relay station are well contoured on the original but on both forgeries, the roof shingles are shown as an entanglement of lines.

On the original, the shadow cast by the roof is made of thick but regular and parallel lines. On Type I forgery, these lines are entangled, some of them extended downwards are smudgy and touching each other in some places. On Type II forgery the shadow is denser and the lines under the gutter are thinner and rarer.

The shadow cast by the arch on the wall, on the original is made of lines and dots running oblique. On Type I forgery, this shadow is made of irregular spots, touching each other. On Type II forgery, this shadow looks almost like the original.

On the original, one end of the ribbon is joined with the driver's hat and the other is detached. On Type I forgery, both ends of the ribbon are tied together and to the driver's hat. On Type II forgery, both ends of the ribbon are detached from the hat.

On the original, the whiffletree of the right leading horse is touching the hoof of the left horse in the rear. The Type I forgery is similar but on the Type II forgery the whiffletree is not touching the hoof.

The original is perforated 14x13½, the forgeries can be 14x13½ but also 11x11, 13½x14½, etc. On one of the Type I forgery the perforation is 14 on the top, 14½ on the bottom, 14 on the left, 14½ on the right.

The original's gum is thick, slightly toned. On the forgeries the gum is smooth, colorless and lightly applied.

ORIGINAL

FORGERY I

FORGERY II

R. Phil. Stud., 1980, IV, m. 1

Further Remarks Concerning The 1903 Mail Coach Set.

PAUL C. LAPTEV, 17 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3JD, England.

Having read with great interest Mr. Don Heller's comments on the forgeries of this first of two sets issued to commemorate the opening of the Post Office headquarters two years earlier, and having then studied in more detail G. Noska's article published in the R.P.S. No. 4/1979, I feel that additional discussion is warranted.

The first question which requires clarification is that of the two main types of known forgeries. Although Mr. Heller makes reference to the vast and famous *Billig's Handbook of Forgeries* (Romania III) where a type I and a type II are clearly identified, he does not point out that Mr. Noska (who does not give any bibliography) describes them in reverse order. In my opinion, the correct nomenclature, which also corresponds to the chronological sequence of their manufacture, is that given by Billig & Stiedl in the Handbook. This was confirmed in an excellent and detailed study by Mr. Vadasz which appeared in the 1959 August issue (No. 39) of Filatelia. Mr. Noska's appears to be a faithful resume of this article, and since it does not mention any of the well-known design differences, one would be led to interpret it as an attempt at listing new, or not previously reported differences. It would seem, however, that the two types were taken one for the other somewhere along the line.

As for the two booklets alluded to by Mr. Heller, these cannot be compared or put in the same class as the two highly professional and specialized sources mentioned above, namely Billig and Vadasz. In fact, they do not contradict them, but are misleading through omission. As an illustration, the Alden C. Johnson (not Johnston) pamphlet while purporting to address the subject of forgeries on a worldwide basis, only mentions one forgery of Romanian stamps (and alas how numerous they are) and for some obscure reason, this happens to be the Mail Coach issue of 1903. Three clues for recognizing forgeries are given but they all refer to the Paris fakes only (which are type I) and some downright misleading generalizations are made. As Mr. Heller has said, Mr. Johnson states that he knows five types of forgeries to exist, but admits having never seen more than one!

The second difficulty is with illustrations. Neither the hand-drawn sketches in the Noska article nor the photographic enlargements shown in the last issue of RPS can be of much use to the average collector. The first because they contain inaccuracies, the second because they are *illegible* as to design detail.

Finally, I note that neither Mr. Noska nor Mr. Heller have made any reference to the '74 CMPR (Catalogue of Romanian Postage Stamps) by K. Dragomir pages 163 & 164 where an excellent listing of design characteristics is given. Due, no doubt, to space limitations, even this recent study is incomplete and fails to differentiate between the various type of forgeries.

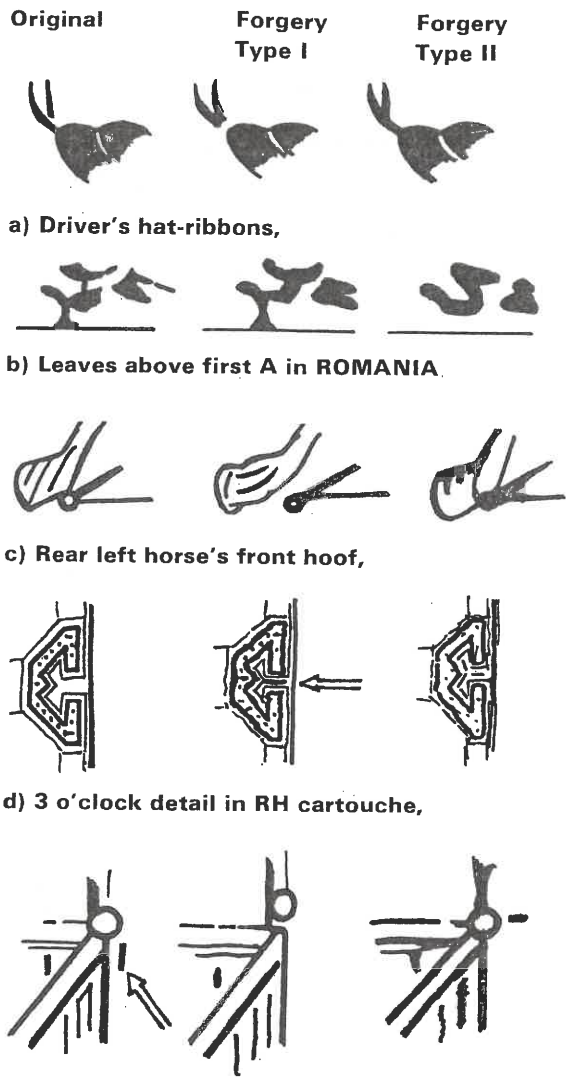


Fig. 1

In an endeavor to offer a simplified and hopefully foolproof method of recognizing originals, type I forgeries and type II forgeries, I submit five sets of enlarged design details specific to each of the categories. (Fig. 1) The middle column applies to type I which is the one referred to as Forgery II by Noska and subsequently by Heller whose remarks exclusively apply to it. The left column applies to originals and the right to the Romanian forgery type II which was produced after the French one and attempted to remedy some of the more obvious mistakes made in Paris. I have selected these design details according to the following criteria:

a) They must be easy to spot using magnifying glass only,

b) they must be consistent,

c) they must permit differentiation not only between fakes and originals but also between the two better known types of forgeries,

d) they must be *strategically* scattered throughout the stamp to allow identification of use (or otherwise cancelled) stamps on which certain tell-tale signs are frequently obliterated,

e) they must apply to all values of the set.

While some of them are well known to collectors and the captions are self-explanatory a few comments may be helpful. Allowances must be made for variations in printing inks which are the cause of more or less smudging. Although

type II forgery was meant to be an improvement over type I as explained earlier the overall quality of the French one is superior. In the case of detail 1c note the three diagonal hatching lines on the original in addition to the relative position of whiffletree and hoof. Detail 1d is often affected by heavy ink-smearing; note the heavy stroke in the center of the detail of type I, the thin detached line in the same location of type II and the absence of any line on the originals. Detail 1e shows not only the detached bannister decoration of type I but the short vertical shadow line below the same ball, visible on originals only.

These design details are intended as a handy tool for the do-it-yourself expert committee and do not claim to be the best choice out of the multitude of identified departures from the Thevenin design. The occasional presence of watermarks can remove any possible doubt for some stamps (Johannot & Cie is original, Papeterie de Renage (Isere) makes it a type I forgery) but their absence proves nothing. See Fig. 2 for the latter watermark reported on by Mr. Heller. the height of the upper case lettering is of 11 mm. that of the lower case ones 6 mm.

Fig. 2

Another means of comparison, which has been reported from various sources, is that of stamp overall dimensions (including perforations) as well as the more precise dimensions of the outside line of the printed frame. I give a listing of the latter although I have not found it consistent or convenient. These dimensions were also given in the Vadasz article:

Original: 37.75 x 23.00 mm.
Forgery I: 37.25 x 23.00 mm.
Forgery II: 37.50 x 23.00mm.
Forgery III: 36.60 x 21.60 mm.

This brings up the question of other types of forgeries than those described so far. Mr. Vadasz indicates that he is reporting on type III for the first time and points out that its execution is by far the best of the three, which explains reports of its non-existence by other collectors.

In closing, I would like to suggest that the relative abundance of type I (Paris) forgeries could be explained by their having been produced in the West and presumably sold mainly outside Romania.

I hope that my remarks will generate further discussion and help bring to light more information about this quaint set.

REVIEW by Mark Fromer:

OSTERREICH 1850—1918 Specialkatalog und Handbuch (1850—1918 AUSTRIA Specialized Catalogue and Handbook)

By Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer

Though this German—language handbook is only peripherally concerned with Romanian stamps, stationery and postal history, many of its pages will be of great interest to the collector of these.

This book gives solid coverage of the stamps and stationery of the Austro—Hungarian Empire items themselves. Color, perforation, watermark, paper, type and plate varieties, not found in general catalogues, are covered in great detail.

The collector of Romania will especially concern himself with the stamps and proofs of the Austrian military post (field post) general issues — which could be used in Romania — as well as those issues specifically for use in Romania. Areas serviced by Austrian post offices in the Levant included some in present-day Romanian territory. The list of opening and closing dates of such offices will be most helpful to the postal history buff. For similar reasons, the postal historian will be interested in the map of ports of call of the DDSG (*Donau—Dampschiffahrts—Gesellschaft* or Danube Steamship Navigation Co.), its stamps and their reprints. The Kustendje (Contantza) local post stamp and mixed frankings possible with this issue, likewise fall into the Romanian field of interest.

Furthermore, Austria made a practice of printing instructions on postal stationery in the diverse languages of the local populaces of its empire. Lettercards, postcards, telegram receipts, customs notices, postal savings cards, etc. issued between 1871 and 1914 may contain inscriptions in Romanian alone or in conjunction with German and/or Ruthenian. These items rightfully deserve a place in Romanian collections.

Copies of this book are available through one of our members at $27.00. Make checks payable to: Theo Van Dam, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, N.Y. 10509.

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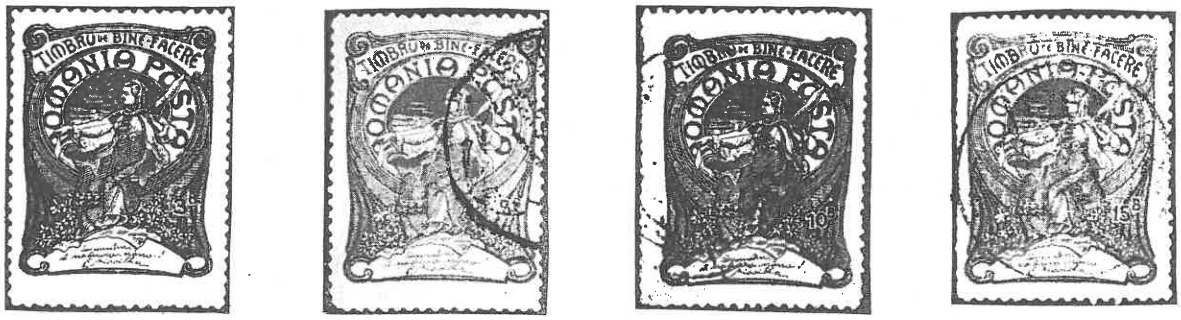
The TORCATOAREA Semipostals and their Counterfeits

Paul C. Laptev, 17 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3JD, England

ORIGINAL



COUNTERFEIT

Very few Romanian 19th and early 20th century issues have been ignored by the counterfeiters. The three semipostal sets of 1906 printed by the Bucharest Stamp Works provide no exception. My aricle published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1980, attemped to provide an easy identification guide to the two main fake types of the 1903 "Mail Coach" (Căișori) set, and a similar approach will be used for the "Torcătoarea" stamps (Scott #B1-B4).

The first of the 1906 semipostal sets was issued on January 1/14. Known as "Torcătoarea", it depicts Queen Elisabeth, dressed in the national costume, spinning. The surtax, 7 bani in addition to the 3 bani postage and 10 bani over each other denomination was earmarked for the "Torcatoarea Society", of which the Queen was president. To encourage and facilitate their sale, some were printed on thinner, silky paper and subsequently assembled into booklets containing panes of four each (measuring 72 by 82 mm.). These green covers of these booklets bear the Romanian coat-of-arms and the inscription "Romania Poșta". They were offered at post offices for 2.80 lei (face value plus surtax). It has been widely assumed that the 6 to 6½ mm. wide gutters between every second vertical row in the sheet (Fig. 1) were intended to

Fig. 1

facilitate booklet assembly. These gutters however, are also present in the sheets printed on thicker, white paper, not utilized to make up booklets. A total of 500,000 sets were printed. The stamps were withdrawn from circulation on June 13, 1907.

The inscription "TIMBRU DE BINEFACERE" (being in addition to the customary "ROMANIA-POSTA") explains the charitable role of the issue, as the surtax denomination does not appear on the stamps. The motto in the Queen's handwriting is followed by her signature. It reads: "Dumnedeu sa ne duca mana!" (God guide our hand!).

Counterfeits were made in Brussels, Belgium and are found in great abundance. These are relatively easy to recognize using salient design differences shown in fig. 2. The originals are depicted at left, the fakes at right. Other distinguishing characteristics common to all value of the fakes are;

-Very smooth, slightly yellowish gum;
-Generally fine centering;
-Regular 11 x 11¼ perforation (originals are perforated 11½ or 11½ x 13½;
-Paler colors. In addition, all the colors are too yellowish, with the 10B. being orange red and the 15B. pale brownish violet.

Design differences peculiar to individual denominations are show in fig. 3.

In support of my statement that forgeries are abundant,I submit (Fig. 4) a postcard (measuring 147 by 105 mm.) issued for a Philatelic Exhibition held in Neuwied, West Germany (see R.P.S., No. 4/1981, p. 12). This show, held at the home of Queen Elizabeth's family, commemorated the centenary of the acclamation of the Romanian kingdom, which took place on March 14/26, 1881. Elisabeth, the daughter of Prince Hermann of Wied, was born in Neuwied in 1843. She married Prince Carl of Hohenzollern in 1869 (he became King Carol I in 1881). She died in Bucharest in 1919. A collector of folklore, she wrote poems and novels under the nom de plume of Carmen Sylva. On the postcard the spelling of her pen name differs in that it reads "Silva", not "Sylva".

The fake 10 bani value was selected for the cachet illustration. Being enlarged to almost twice the actual size, it clearly shows the characteristics of the counterfeits described. Even the color shown on the card is reddish brown, not matching the brick red of the originals. The fact that a fake was used would tend to show that such are more available that originals!

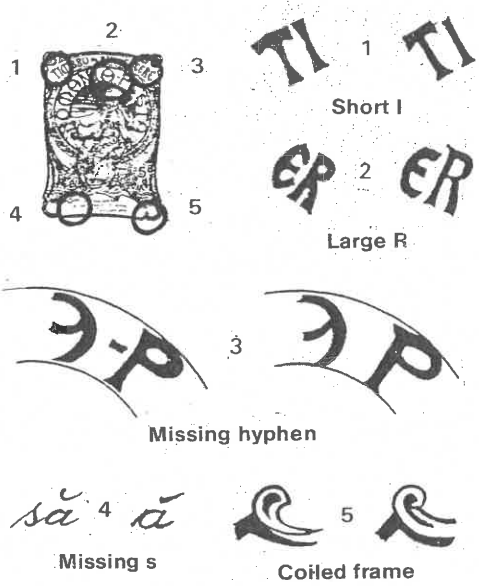


Fig. 2

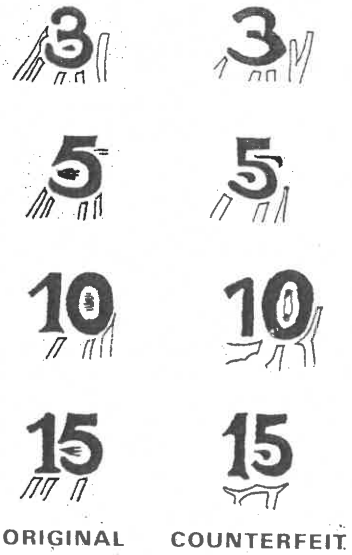


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

On "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" Handstamps.

Paul C. Laptev

Several previous issues (R.P.S. Nos. 1/1981, 3/1981, 3/1982) raised the question of whether the meaning of "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" handstamps is "prohibited to censor" or, to the contrary, "stopped (retained) to be censored".

A well known slogan cancellation (illustrated below) used just before World War II reads "ESTE OPRIT A SE INTRODUCE IN SCRISORI BANI SAU ALTE OBIECTE". It translates "It is prohibited (forbidden) to enclose money or other objects in letters". Thus, without doubt, thw word "OPRIT" was used in the sense of "prohibited". If this same word also bears the same meaning in the "Oprit a se cenzura" handstamps, the correct translation would have to be "Prohibited to censor".

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Vol. 3, No. 3, 1979

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THE ORIGINAL AND THE COUNTERFEIT OF THE 1913 "SCUTIT" STAMP

GUSTAV NOSKA, Str. Lamiitei No. 48, 75278 Bucharest, Romania.

This franchise stamp was issued in 1913, under Order No. 23466-913, to be used by the organizing committee of the festivities for the occasion of the reversion of the county of Silistra (in Dobrudja) to Romania. It was applied on postage-exempt mail.

It is not listed by Scott but it is described in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, page 426.

A 624-page **ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE** '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

CHARACTERISTICS OF:	ORIGINAL	COUNTERFEIT
Paper:	thin, white;	thick, porous;
Perforation:	11½, neat	11½, faulty & irregular;
Size of design:	36½ x 35½ mm;	36 x 35 mm;
Printing process:	typography;	lithography;
Outside frame:	normal;	thicker than on the original:
Shading lines outside the circle;	uniform;	irregular, with thicker ends, some lines broken, variable distances to frame and to circle;
Letters:	uniform thickness with angled corners;	thicker with slightly rounded corners;
Numerals:	uniform thickness with angled corners;	with thinner ends & rounded corners;
Left 1913:	1 and 3 separated:	1 and 3 touch each other;
E's in left slogan:	well drawn;	shorter horizontal lines;
2 triangles near lower-right 1913:	with shading lines;	without shading lines;
8 squares on the top:	distinct shading lines	distorted, irregular shadings;
Sky in medallion:	fine, parallel, short lines;	irregular dots and spots;
Coat of arms on flag:	recognizable;	unrecognizable;
Hand holding flag pole:	well drawn;	undefined;
Sword:	with a shading line;	without shading line;
Woman:	well drawn with details;	badly drawn, spotty;
Bridgehead:	well drawn with details	badly drawn, spotty;

Original

Counterfeit

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432

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ASSISTANCE STAMPS

George Pataki

"Assistance Stamps" or "Charity Stamps" are not postage stamps at all. Their purpose was collection of funds for various organizations or charities and not prepayment of postage. While some were used at first voluntarily on postal matter, later their use became mandatory. Others were mandatorily used from the moment they were issued.

We present here three types of such assistance stamps, not listed in the Scott catalogue, however, fully described in the Romanian Postage Stamps Catalogue of 1974 (page 451):

1. TB ASSISTANCE - Issued in 1913, they are typographed on unwatermarked, white porous paper, and are perf. 11½ or 11½:13½. The single 5 Bani value, issued in two different colors - green and orange - portrays the effigy of Queen Maria. Funds collected were used to aid those affected by tuberculosis.

2. ASSISTANCE FOR DRAFTEES or TOWARDS THE CARPATHIANS - Issued in 1914, it is typographed on unwatermarked white paper, perf. 11½ (scarcer) or imperforate. Its denomination is 10 Bani and its color is blue. Issued just before WW I, it had political implications as the Romanian soldier depicted on it is supposedly marching towards the Carpathian Mountains, thus implicitly towards Transylvania, that time under Hungarian administration. It was withdrawn, alledegly at the request of the Austro-Hungarian ambassador.

3. EMPEROR TRAJAN or ASSISTANCE STAMP FOR TRANSYLVANIANS - Issued in 1915, on unwatermarked white grey paper, they are perf. 11½. Showing a bust of Emperor Trajan, the single 10 Bani value comes in two colors: rose or greenish grey. Some have the overprint "CONTROLAT" applied oblique on the stamps' lower half.

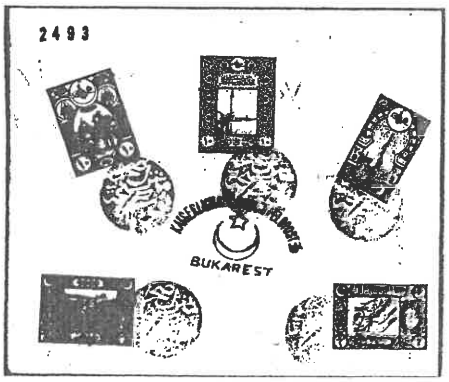
Most philatelists avoid calling such items "stamps," preferring to cal them "labels." Because they often can be found on covers and cards, they are of interest to specialists.

Turkish Field Post Cancel Used In Bucharest (II)

George Pataki

In our No. 1/1980 bulletin we illustrated a favor-cancelled cover, bearing a Turkish field post cancellation that was used in Bucharest during the early part of WW I when part of Romania was temporarily occupied by the Central Powers. It was eventually sold for $50.00. We now show a second postal marking of the same period on a cover offered for sale in the ROGER KOERBER (605 Northland Towers West, Southfield, Michigan 48075), Jan. 3-5, 1980, auction catalogue.

This is also a favor cancelled cover, not even being addressed. Its five Turkish stamps are each neatly cancelled by a negative Turkish cancellation. What is important to the Romanian specialist is that the marking applied on the cover's center reads "KAISERLICH OSMANISCHE FELDPOST 35 BUKAREST" and shows a crescent and five-pointed star. This marking's size is approximately 38.3 x 32.2 mm. It was sold for $60.00.



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ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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A POSTAL-HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel

After Poland's defeat by the Nazi Germany, in 1939, part of the Polish army took refuge in Romania, a country which before the war had maintained good-neighbor relations with Poland. At that time, Romania was still a neutral in the major European conflict. However, to not upset Germany, it could not let the Polish belligerents free. The enlisted men were thus confined to a camp in TG. JIU, while officers were in another camp in CALIMANESTI. Calimanesti is a beautiful resort area in the Carpathian Mountains and the Polish officers had privileged treatment under the circumstances.

We present here a postcard mailed from the officers' camp in Calimanesti. Written October 29, 1940, it bears a CALIMANESTI departure cancellation dated October 31, 1940. Mailed to Haifa, Palestine (today Israel), it unfortunately does not show an arrival marking but its arrival is proven by two British mandate hexagonal censor markings; one is numbered "H.9", the other "I.22", both in light violet. The double censorship of this card is interesting.

The postcard also bears a double circle (the outside circle, 29 mm. in diameter, is thicker than the inside one which is 27 mm. in diameter) administrative marking of that camp, with Romania's coat-of-arms in the center and a text reading: "Romania, Lagarul Ofiteri Poloni Calimanesti" (Romania, Polish Officers Camp Calimanesti).

There are also two rectangular markings, both in light red. One (50x10 mm.) is bilingual on two lines, one Romanian and the other French, with the text reading: "Luptator internat" and "Belligerant interne" (Interned belligerent). The other marking (43x8 mm.) has the word "NEFRANCAT" (unfranked) as the correspondence of the P.O.W.'s did not need to be franked.

This interesting item belongs to the "Romania" collection of Mr. Farchi of Tel-Aviv, Israel.

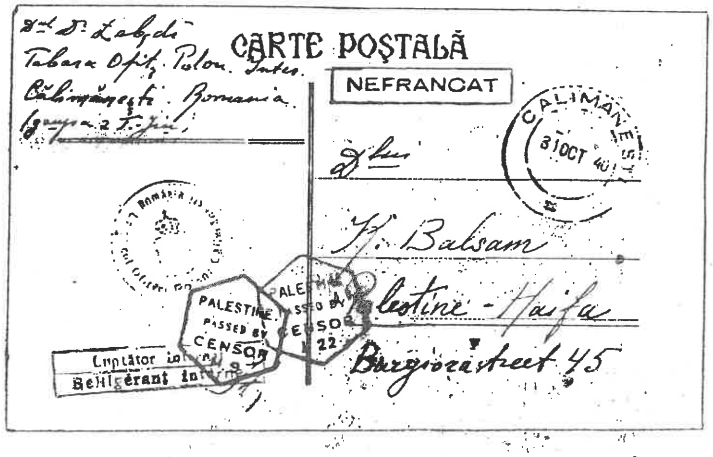
More on ASSISTANCE STAMPS

Dr. Eng. Ilie C. Demetrescu,
Str. Tg. Neamt No. 24, bl.Td 38, apt. 38, 77486 Bucharest, Romania.

The R.P.S. No. 3/1980 article on "assistance stamps" presented the so-called "Emperor Trajan" or "Assistance Stamps for Transylvanians", consisting of one denomination (10 bani) printed in either of two colors: rose or olive green. These were printed on thin, yellowish-white, unwatermarked paper. Exceptionally, items occur on the watermarked paper described in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 as type X; this paper shows a single vertical or horizontal line. I have in my collection a block of four, rose on yellowish-white paper, having a vertical watermark line on the left vertical pair, the right vertical pair being unwatermarked.

Many philatelists consider such issues of little importance, not deserving the name of stamps, and call them vignettes. Nevertheless, such items on covers and postcards, obliterated with cancellations used at that time, are of philatelic value.

These unofficial assistance stamps were issued in 1915 (for voluntary use)



through the initiative and under the supervision of the great Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga, the founder and president of "Liga Pentru Unitatea Culturala a Tuturor Romanilor" (Pan-Romanian Cultural Unity League). Funds collected through the sale of these stamps were supposedly for assistance to World War I refugees from Transylvania.

At the beginning of the spring of 1945, I chanced to meet Zaharia Florian, one of the distinguished directors of the Romanian National Bank. Mr. Florian, being a stamp collector, showed me color proofs for this issue and a handwritten letter from Iorga to the Carol Goebel Printing Works of Bucharest, in which Iorga chose rose and olive green as the colors to be used. The proofs - in singles and pairs - numbered seven and were in the following colors: rose, reddish brown, olive green, blue, reddish violet, violet gray and blackish violet. Mr. Florian retained the pairs but gave me the singles. In April 1945, my friend Zaharia Florian suddenly passed away. About 15 years later, the same proofs in pairs were offered for sale to me. I bought them and gave the singles to another collector. Aside from the above, I have never come across other proofs of these.

My pairs of color proofs differ from the actual stamps on several counts. The paper

is finer and is white; they are imperforate; the guide lines for perforation located on the stamps' margins are missing on the proofs; and the proofs have (one or two) large sheet markings. When there are 2 such sheet markings they for a right angle and originate for the sheet corners. My proofs are from various sheet positions: the reddish brown and the blackish violet come from the upper right corner; the blue is taken from the lower right corner; the rose and the violet gray from the lower left corner while the olive green and the reddish violet originate from the bottom row.

Iorga's manuscript letter, mentioned above, could not be located despite my efforts to find it. Not even Mrs. Lucia Bancheriu-Florian, Florian's widow, could give me any clue as to the whereabouts of this valuable document. Furthermore, I could not learn who designed the stamps, who engraved the cliches, nor how many stamps were printed.

Petre Murea, who at that time was a post office clerk, states (in "Istoricul Timbrelor Postale Romanesti", Timisoara 1938, page 375) that these stamps were sold primarily at post offices. However, covers or postcards bearing these stamps (besides the required postage stamps), obliterated with postal cancellations, are very scarce, mainly because their use was voluntary and not many people used them. Furthermore, the General Directorate of Romanian Posts, although having permitted sale of these through its offices, ordered clerks (memorandum No. 72408/1914) "not to obliterate anything other than postage stamps in circulation, while the various kinds of vignettes affixed on mail should be left in circulation without applying on them any dated postmark". Despite this interdiction, a small number of items with obliterated assistance stamps slipped through. I possess such a cover. Page 375 of Murea's book likewise illustrates such a stamp cancelled "17 OCT 1915". Such oversight by postal service employees can be excused because of the haste taken in their work.

More on PROHIBITED TO CENSOR Marking

MIRCEA TELEGUT, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

Regarding Silviu Dragomir's note in Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 1/1981 on "Curious Censor Markings", I illustrate here a postal card with one of its markings similar in content but not quite identical to the one described there.

The postal card, Michel #312, type VI (Ganzachen Katalog, Deutschland 1977), was mailed from Vienna, Austria, on March 19, 1944, to Timisoara, Romania, where it arrived on April 3, 1944 (therefore, during World War II).

The marking presented by Mr. Dragomir has the same text "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" (prohibited to censor) as the one on my postal card, but in addition it has also the place where it was applied (BUCURESTI) and a number designating the particular censor or censor's office (3).

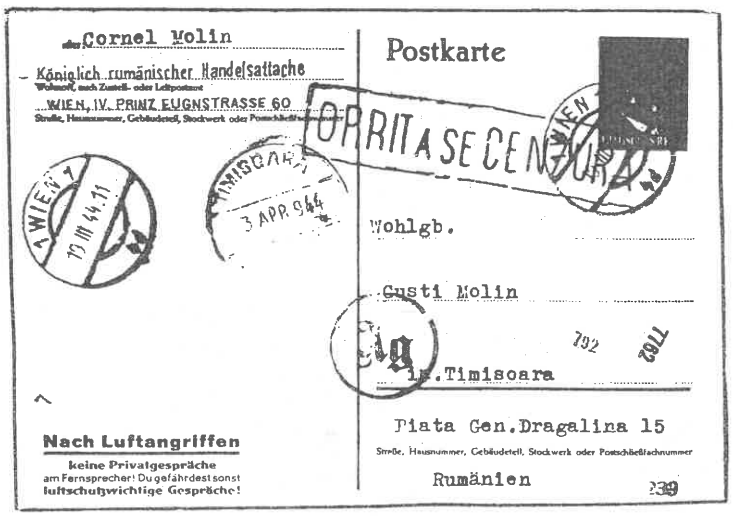
The "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking applied on this card is red in a 70x15 mm. frame. I presume it was applied upon departure from Vienna and not upon its arrival in Timisoara, from where, so far, no use of such marking was reported. I make this presumption based on the following: the sender - an employee of the Romanian consulate in Vienna - applied an administrative marking, 28 mm. in diameter, also in red, with the text: "Koniglich Rumanischer Handelsattache, Wien" (Royal Romanian Trade Attache, Vienna) and Romania's coat-of-arms in the center (not visible on the photo).

The red ink of this marking seems to be of the same shade and appearance as that of the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking (which was retouched on this photograph). Therefore, I believe that both of these markings were applied at the same time, and at the same place, specifically in Vienna, Austria.

This type of "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking was thus used by the Romanian diplomatic corps to bring to the attention of the internal authorities that it was prohibited to censor such diplomatic mail.

The facts that in this case, the marking was applied on private correspondence (written by the commercial attache to his wife), and that it did not make much sense to apply it on an open postal card, does not change its value as a piece of Romanian postal history.

A different usage of this "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking was found on a cover mailed from Paris on November 20, 1941, to Bucharest. Its arrival on February 24, 1942, is attested to by a postmark, 28 mm. in diameter, with the text: "OF.(iciul)



R. Phil. Stud., 1975, III, m. 3,

Romanian Stamps Printed In Russia

By Barbu Popescu, Bucharest, Romania

Philatelically speaking, King Ferdinand started on the wrong foot. A newphew of King Carol I, Ferdinand became king of Romania on September 28/October 11, 1914, one day after his uncle's death. Only in 1920 were stamps with his effigy issued.

At the beginning of 1915 a contest for the best stamp model was announced. At that time it was also necessary to issue new TIMBRE DE AJUTOR (postal tax stamps) which were required to be used starting from 1915, and TAXA DE PLATA/TIMBRU DE AJUTOR (postage due/postal tax) stamps.

In August 1916, Romania entered the war on the side of the Allies (France, Russia, Great Britain, Serbia, Italy, etc). At the end of the same year, part of Romania's territory was occupied by the Central Powers (Austria, Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria) and the government was forced to move to Jassy. Taking into consideration that the stamp and the banknote printing plants were in Bucharest under foreign occupation, and because in Jassy there were no proper conditions, the government decided to have stamps and banknotes printed in Moscow. In December 1916 a Moscow printing house (American Artistic Printers No. 7) was contacted and models for stamps and banknotes were sent there for a future order. The designer of the stamps was the Jassy painter Horatio-Sava Dumitriu. In January 1917, because of the great urgency, the Moscow printers sent stamp and banknote samples to Jassy, to be approved by the Romanian government. The set of definities was made of 8 stamps (Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74, nos. 223-230, page 174), with a common design and for the first time a 35 bani stamp was printed. The colors used for the previously issued engraved, Carol I, definitives still in use, were maintained, except for the 2 lei stamp which was changed from red-orange to light blue.

In February 1917 the issue was approved for printing. However at that time the Tzar was overthrown, and Russia became a republic. Since the internal administration of that country was disturbed, the Romanian government stopped the order for stamps and banknotes. The new Russian government did not present a guarantee nor stability to the Jassy gov't.

According to some sources, 20,000 sets were received as a first delivery—the majority of which were burned on the order of the Postmaster General since the rest of the stamps and the printing plates remained in Russia after the outbreak of the revolution. About 200 sets were kept, part of which were offered to the royal family.

What kind of samples were sent from Moscow to Jassy? Judging by what exists in the Romanian philatelic circles we can state that the following stamps were received:

FERDINAND definitives	
5 bani	- light green
10 bani	- red
25 bani	- dark blue
35 bani	- redish-violet
40 bani	- blueish-green
50 bani	- orange-yellow
1 leu	- sepia
2 lei	- light blue
POSTAL TAX	
5 bani	- green
10 bani	- red
50 bani	- orange
POSTAL TAX/POSTAGE DUE	
10 bani	- red.

a) Ferdinand-definitives (with common design), 10, 25, 35, 40 and 50 bani, perforated 11½ and mostly perforated (nos. 224-228, page 174, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74). These stamps were printed on white, soft, thin, unwatermarked paper, the kind used for Russian stamps issued during the same period. The size is 25x34mm. Some of the values (on the bottom of the sheets) show the name of the printers "HUD AMERIK TIPO Nr. 7" printed in Russian, with different letter types for each value. These stamps appeared after WW I in sheets mostly imperforated but some perforated 11½. It was mistakenly believed that these were the only values printed.

b) Postal tax stamps (TIMBRE DE AJUTOR), 5 and 10 bani, 25x34 mm, common design, mostly imperforated, seldom perforated 11½ (nos. 231, 232, page 174, R.P.S.C. '74).

A couple of years ago I found another unrecorded value of the TIMBRU DE AJUTOR: a 50 bani, orange stamp, the same type as the other two.

c) Postage due/Postal tax stamps (TAXA DE PLATA/TIMBRE DE AJUTOR), 10 bani, red, perforated 11½ and imperforated, 27x33mm.

Around 1922-25, Russian emmigrants in Vienna, Austria (besides the above mentioned five definitivies) sold stamp of 5 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei, presenting them as great rarities (nos. 223, 229, and 230 in the R.P.S.C. '74). Presently in Romania these values are very scarce.

It is possible that in the future other values of the postal tax will be found because in 1916 values of the 1 leu, 2, 5 and 50 lei postal tax stamps were issued, the higher values being used for fiscal purposes.

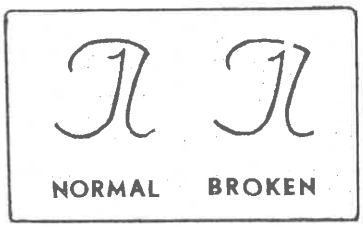
All these stamps were never officially issued and if found cancelled, the cancellation is a fake or unofficial. There are not listed in Scott but they are fully described in the 1974 Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue.

EFIRO SOUVENIR SHEET ERROR?

VIOREL MOLDOVAN, Bul. V. Babes No. 26/B, 1900 Timisoara, Romania

The first Romanian souvenir sheet was issued on November 20, 1932, on the occasion of the *"EFIRO"* Romanian Philatelic Exhibition held in Bucharest.

Known as the *"EFIRO"* sheet, it is listed in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 as No. 544 (page 201) and in Scott as B40. On the bottom of this souvenir sheet, in the word *"Noemvrie"* (November, as it was spelled at that time), the top curve of the letter *"N"* is normal (continuous) on some sheets, while it is interrupted on others.



Checking several catalogues, such as Konrad 1946, 1947 and 1948, the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogues of 1959 and 1964, Zumstein, and others, this break does not appear in any of the illustrations. On the other hand, in the illustration presented in the 1974 edition of the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue, the letter *"N"* is broken.

Having both types of the souvenir sheet, I question: which is the regular type and which is the error?

Because most of the catalogues illustrate the EFIRO sheet with unbroken *"N"* and only one catalogue shows it with broken *"N"*, I would presume that the one with the complete *"N"* is the regular type and the one with the broken *"N"* is the error.

50,000 sheets were printed (a small number by today's standards); a part of these was sold at the EFIRO exhibition for 31 lei a piece; 11 lei was their face value and 20 lei was for the entrance fee to the exhibition. Later, the sale continued at face value and after 5 years, in 1937, the remaining stock was sold at auction by the Ministry of Posts (Filatelia, No./20 Nov. 15, 1945), proving that for that time the printing had been too large.

On some of the sheets, the exhibition cancellation was applied; the catalogue values of the cancelled and mint sheets are currently the same ($7.50 each in the 1979 Scott). The 1974 Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue places a 2 times normal value on the sheets with special exhibition cancellation.

Because many of these sheets were destroyed during the war, or by earthquake, floods and negligence, the number of sheets existing in perfect condition was much reduced and the sheet has become one of the scarcer items of the contemporary (1928 to date) issues.

The ratio of the existing amounts of the two types of sheets (and perhaps the ratio between the number of cancelled versus mint sheets) should be established to find out which are scarcer and to recompute their catalogue values.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I possess 18 mint EFIRO sheets, all with broken *"N"* (bought from the same dealer) and one sheet with exhibition cancellation, with unbroken *"N"*. Further data is requested.

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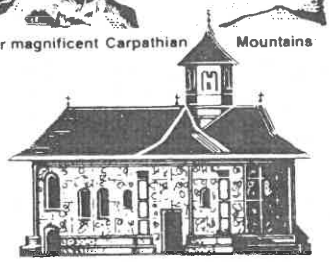
...our sun-kissed Black Sea shore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R. Phil. Stud., Ng, 1980, IV., m.3

exists, differing only in its inscription, "Pecetea Komitetului Sanatatii din Esi" (Seal of the Health Committee in Jassy).

2. K-33-I Galatz Quarantine

Rectangular cachet (58.5 mm. x 8.5 mm.) with cut corners; shaded letters in soot or ink; inscription in Cyrillic slanted capitals, "SAU KURATAŢ" (cleansed), followed by a star. Figure 13 shows a letter from "Dal lazzareto Galatz, 6 April 1839" addressed to "Signor Fratelli Rona, Marsilia" (in France). With K-33-I in black ink, its manuscript text in Cyrillic translates as: "839. March 27. Galatz Quarantine" and an additional notation (probably added in transit by the BOIAN Austrian Quarantine) reads: "R N 30" (Raucher Nummer 30) (G. Sassower collection).

3. K-33-II Galatz Port

Similar to K-33-I but slightly longer (60 mm. x 8.5 mm.) and with rounded corners; after the last letter, a period and a six-pointed star. Figure 14 shows part of a bill of lading of Fratelli Pedemonte, of April 3/15, 1846, with K-33-II in black ink.

4. K-35 Galatz

Oval seal (28 mm. x 32 mm.); hexagonal escutcheon with bull's head and star, coat-of-arms, supported by gun barrels and flanked by cannon balls; above, flag with tassels and crown with cross; around, the inscription "PRINCIPATUL MOLDAVII — KARANTINA GALATI" (Moldavian Principality — Galatz Quarantine) in Cyrillic lower case letters.

Reference item (not illustrated): Dr. Abegg's report No. 13 of May 3, 1839, to the Health Committee in Jassy, with K-35.

5. K-40 Galatz Port Quarantine

Oval seal-cachet for soot or ink (31 mm. x 35 mm.); escutcheon with bull's head and star (at left) and crowned, rampant lion (at right); sword is surrounded by an olive branch (the family coat-of-arms of Prince Mihail Sturdza); above, a crown with cross; on each side, a dolphin. Inscription in Cyrillic capitals: on the top, "PRINCIPATUL MOLDABBIII"; on the bottom, in two lines, "KARANTINA PORTULUI GALATAI 1840."

Reference item (not illustrated): Report No. 912 of May 8, 1847, from the Directorate of the Galatz Quarantine to the Health Committee of the Moldavian Principality.

6. K-44 Galatz, Double Oval

Double frames (42 x 21 and 33 x 13 mm.); inscription's letters in thick Cyrillic capitals, "SAU KURATIT LA KAPITANIA PORTULUI" and in the middle, "GALATII." Figure 15 shows a letter dated 1852, from Constantinople to Galatz, which also bears the oval marking "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO (Austrian Lloyd Agency). On arrival it received K-44 in green ink (G. Sassower collection).

7. K-55 Galatz Directorate

Circular seal (33 mm. in diameter); in center, escutcheon with bull's head and star; above, crown with cross; on each side, a dolphin; on the bottom, seaman's tools; inscription in Cyrillic capitals, "DIREKTORIATUL SANITAR AL KARANT. GALATZ. 1855."

8a. K-56 Galatz Port Directorate

Oval seal (33 mm. x 40 mm.); escutcheon with unidentified symbols; above, crown with cross; dolphin on each side; below, year date "1856"; inscription in Cyrillic capitals, "DIREKTORUL PECETEA DIREKTORATULUI SANITAR AL PORTULUI GALATI 1856."

8b. K-56 Chilia

Oval seal (33 mm. x 40 mm.) similar to K-56 (Galatz), but its inscription reads, "VICE DIREKTOR. PECETEA DIREKTORATULUI SANITAR A PORTULUI GALATI. 1856." Not known from Galatz itself; this seal was used, however, at "KILIA" (Chilia) between 1856-1860 by Capt. D. Kantemir, former deputy director of Galatz who had been appointed director of Chilia Port, because Chilia had no seal of its own. Figure 16 shows a certificate issued by "The Captain of Chilia Port," September 17, 1859, signed by the port captain D. Kantemir and certified with the K-56 seal in soot (Dr. L.N. Cristea collection).

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More on ROMANIAN STAMPS PRINTED IN RUSSIA

Dr. Ilie C. Demetrescu,
Str. Tg. Neamt No. 24,
bl. Td 28, apt. 34,
77486 Bucharest, Romania.

This article supplements the issues on this subject first raised by Barbu Popescu in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3 of 1979.

Besides the single design utilized for all 8 values of this set (issued for postage), at least one other (Fig. 1) was prepared but not adopted. This essay ilustrated here belongs to the Nicolae Teodorescu (of Piatra Neamt, Romania) collection. The designs have identical portraits of King Ferdinand and both show the same solemn and dignified style. The differences between the two lies in their ornamental frames and that on the essay, the value is shown twice in its lower corners. Also the essay bears the imprint of the designer's name, HORATIU DIMITRIU, in the lower right margin corner.

Fig. 1

To show the graphic relation between the postage stamps and the essay we illustrate 10 Bani (Fig. 2) and 50 Bani banknotes (Fig. 3). These notes were

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

issued in 1917 by the Romanian government in Jassy, during WW I. The similarity of the effigies of King Ferdinand and the same graphic style of the ornamental frames is evident. The 50 Bani banknote has the full name of its designer, the same HORATIU SAVA DIMITRIU, in its lower

Fig. 4

right corner. The two banknotes were printed in Romania, by the Geographical Service of the Romanian Army in Jassy. For further comparison and to emphasize some differences, we show enlarged (Fig. 4) a 30 Bani revenue stamp (required on certain official applications, documents certified by notary public, etc.), ordered in Moscow at the same time as the postage stamps. The design of this stamp is less severe than that of the postage stamps, and the style is more baroque. Nevertheless, we presume it was likewise done by Horatiu Sava Dimitriu.

It seems that some essays of the fiscal stamp were delivered with the first batch of postage stamps sent from Moscow to the Romanian government in Jassy. I possess an imperforate block of 4, in olive brown. I have neither seen nor heard of other similar items.

Худ Тип. Амер. № 5.

Fig. 5

Also illustrated here (Fig. 5) is the lower part of a sheet of the 35 Bani stamp. Its inscription in Cyrillic letters reads: HUD TIP. AMER. No. 5. This imprint's typeset and its text differs from that of the previously illustrated 25 Bani stamp which reads: HUD. TIP. AMERIK. No. 7 This entitles us to believe that this order was executed by at least two different sections of the same printing plant.

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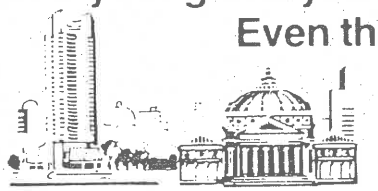
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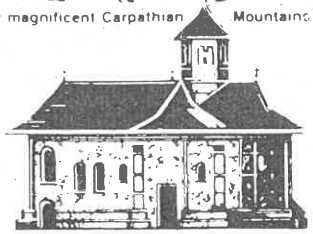
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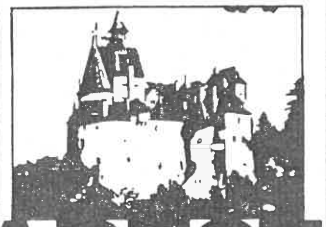

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The Reprints of the First Romanian Postage Stamps

by MIRCEA STĂNCULESCU
Calea Moşilor No.88, Sc.B, et.2, apt.30,
Bucharest, ROMANIA.

Reprinted from
The AMERICAN PHILATELIST
May 1979

According to the 1974 *Romanian Stamp Catalogue*, by Kiriac Dragomir (Part I), Page 32, when Col. August Gorjan (postmaster general from February 26, 1891, through February 22, 1892) was told in 1891 that the four original dies of the first issue of Moldavia had been found, he authorized the hand-printing of a limited number of copies of each value. They were done in black ink on white slightly laid paper.

The same catalogue states on Page 37 that a similar reprinting of Moldavia's second issue was also undertaken. To this day, reprints of the 5-parale on laid paper, and of the 40- and 80-parale values on wove paper are known. These items were included in the J. von Witzleben collection.

In Romanian philatelic literature, the "Bull-Head" reprints were discussed in a paper by Dr. Alexandru Dumitrescu.[1] However, a complete picture of the problems related to these reprints cannot be presented as yet. After the publication of Dr. Dumitrescu's study, the existence of "new" reprints was established at the National Stamp Exhibition of 1974, within the official exhibit of the post office administration.

1. See *Filatelia No. 11*, November 1958, pg. 31, for more information about the Bull-Head reprints.

Figure 1. Four original dies.

I must mention here, in connection with these reprints, that Romanian philatelic literature lacks a philatelic lexicon, which would define some of the basic terms used by Romanian collectors. Among these terms, the definition of "reprint" remains far from absolute.

The 1974 *Romanian Stamp Catalogue* states: "The official printing of a stamp with the original dies, after its withdrawal from circulation, amounts to a reprint." Such a definition can be found in other Romanian and foreign sources.[2] This definition adds the qualifying word "official" (official printing), which is erroneous because it alters the actual meaning by suggesting that there is but one category of reprints. This could lead to confusion among inexperienced collectors.

When considering all acceptable definitions, two basic and essential elements become obvious. The reprint must be undertaken with the original dies (cliches, plates, etc.) and must be of an out-of-use stamp. In addition, there are other qualifications. For instance, the original means of printing should *not* be reconditioned for the reprint; the reprints should *not* be retouched, completed, or corrected; a different type of paper and other inks and colors should be used; the purpose, number of copies, method of distribution, and possible cost should be mentioned. All of these elements constitute data of originality and thus contribute to the establishment of a genuine reprint. Reprints are made for such purposes as the completion of officially held sets (Switzerland); the checking of the authenticity of certain dies, cliches, plates, etc. (as in the case of the Gorjan reprints); and special occasion offerings to official personalities.[3]

2. *Yvert, Gibbons, Filatelia No. 11*, all 1958.

Here I must mention that there are cases when identical reprints (of the issued stamps) are used for postal purposes (never in Romania), and that, in such instances, any copies not initially notified represent a "reprint."[4] Indeed, in the literal sense, a "reprint" is understood to be a new printing of a work and its result (*Petit Larousse*, 1966, Page 893); thus, it is the act of printing certain signs upon paper or

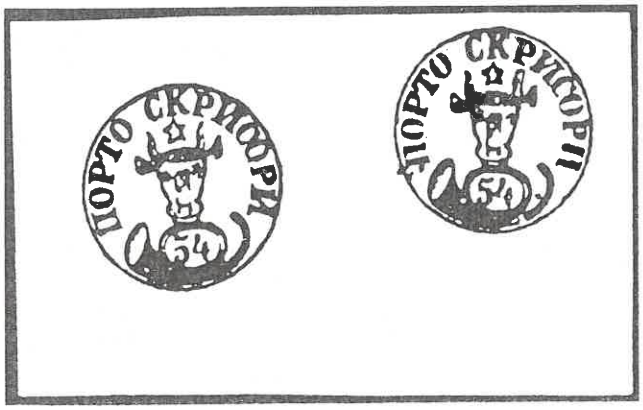

Figure 2. Gorjan reprints.

3. This also seems to have been intended in 1958, on the occasion of the centenary of Romanian postage stamps.

4. For instance, Austria's 5-kreuzer value of the 1883 issue, reprinted in 1898. See *Rev. Soc. Filatelice Romane No. 11*, Vol XII, 1939, pg. 1805.

Figure 3. 27-parale original, enlarged.

other supporting material.[5]

In the basic work for this field (*Reprints of Postal Adhesive Stamps and Their Characteristics*, published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London 1898, and republished in 1954 in the United States), E.D. Bacon gives a restricted meaning to the term "reprint." He considers reprints those printings made with the same dies, cliches, plates, blocks, or litho-stones as used for the originals. When these means of reproduction are remade by copying the originals, however accurate the copies might be, the result is known as "official imitation." The actual reprints are subdivided into two categories: those made by the authority which issued the original stamps (in which case they are called "official"), and those printed by private persons, with or without government approval (called "private").[6] In both instances, the means of reproduction is the original one.

According to Dr. L.N. Cristea,[7] the German philatelic terminology (as found in most catalogues and handbooks) is more discriminating. The German philatelic glossaries mention both *Neudrucke* and *Nachdrucke*.

I. *Neudrucke* (ND) are all new prints of a stamp, made by the state postal administration with the original, unchanged means of reproduction after the stamps have ceased to be in postal use. These reprints are collected for study purposes by specialists. If the reprints have been made by someone other than the state postal administration or a similar office, then the term *privater Neudrucke* should be used (example: Hannover 1851/59). The term "*Neudrucke*" cannot be extended to forgeries, fanciful printings, or any other later printings.

II. *Nachdrucke* (NA) are reproductions made or ordered by the state with the use of a more or less changed original means of production,[8] and after the printings for postal use (example: Wurtemberg 1864 or Elsass-Lothringen 1870). Unlike the *Neudrucke*, the *Nachdrucke* reproduced with changed means by anybody but the state should be taken as forgeries.

The *Philatelic Glossary* published by The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain[9] makes it very clear that reprints (in the sense of *Neudrucke*) are made with the original dies, cliches, and so forth after the respective issue has been withdrawn from circulation. Such reprints are not prepared for postal use, but as specimens or collectors' items.

In the *Zumstein Catalogue*, Europe 1976, the term "reprint" has two meanings: the official or private reprint with the original means of reproduction

Figure 4. 54-parale original, enlarged.

(therefore, *Neudrucke*, in German); and the official reprint with changed means of reproduction (therefore, *Nachdrucke*, in German). Both types, of course, must be produced after the withdrawal of the original issue.

In English philatelic literature, the notion of "reissue" is applied to the reprinting — with changed dies, cliches, plates, etc. — of stamps not meant to be sold. But — and this must be emphasized — in Britain, a "reissue" also could mean stamps remaining from a certain issue again put into postal use by the postal authority for some reason after a withdrawal. This dual definition of "reissue" makes it difficult to use the term without lengthy qualifications.

Within Romanian philately there are two reprintings of the first issues of Moldavia. The first created the "Gorjan reprints," and the second — quite a surprise for most collectors — the "1958 Centenary reprints."

The matter of the "Gorjan reprints," prepared three-quarters of a century ago, is simple because their existence was brought to the attention of the philatelic world a short time after they made their appearance. Numerous articles were written on this subject at that time, and various authors stated their opinions very clearly.

A problem with the "Gorjan reprints" was brought to the fore for the first time in information published in the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal No. 7* of 1892. (It should be noted that the reprinting was publicized a couple of months after it had been carried out.) At the same time, it was pointed out that most copies on white paper had been acquired by a former Capt. C. Moroiu, who, in 1892, artistically corrected all their faults and then presented them to the philatelic world market as new reprints.[10]

Ten years later, on August 31, 1902, *L'Echo De La Timbrologie* (Page 979) published the letter of Paul Paulescu from Bucharest, in which he referred to the Gorjan reprints. Though some philatelists expressed certain doubts about the accuracy of the letter's contents, I regard it as interesting, if only from an historical point of view:

> I receive letters daily with the question if there are any reprints of Moldavian stamps. I answer now in order to satisfy the curiosity of all collectors, once and for all. The Moldavian stamps were first issued in 1858, circular in shape, printed from steel engraved dies.
>
> After the 1st of November 1858 these dies were enclosed in a metallic box and deposited with the Ministry of Finance, where they were found in 1882, next to five other coins: 5 Par one, 40 Par

Figure 5. 81-parale original, enlarged.

5. In Romanian (just as in French, Spanish, Portuguese, and all Latin American derivatives), the word for "reprint" (*reimpresiune*) comes from the Latin *impressum*. See Ion Nadejde's Latin-Romanian Dictionary, ed. Viata Romaneasca, Jassy, 1925, pg. 309.

6. With this meaning, see also "A Brief Note Concerning the Reprints," Dr. L.N. Cristea (manuscript submitted to the AFR Study Circle for its *Reprints — Debate*).

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.* The Swiss added the "new cliches" meaning.

9. *Ibid.* (The Philatelic Congress — the highest philatelic forum in Great Britain.)

10. Dr. A. Dumitrescu, the quoted work, pg. 38.

three, and 80 Par one, all engraved in steel and attacked by rust.

On the occasion of the King's jubilee the regretted Col. Gorjan, Post Master General, decided to prepare reprints, but as most of the dies were damaged only a few copies were made of the 27, 54, 81, 108, and 5 Parale, the other dies being unusable.

These copies were made by hand printing:

— the 27 Par on thick pale pink paper;

— the 54 Par in green-blue on dark green paper;

— the 81 Par in blue or grey-blue on this laid bluish paper;

— the 5 Par, blue on pelure-paper in a rose-lilac colour.

The 27 Par die was slightly impaired on the right side, with breaks in the circular outline. The 54 Par, better preserved, gave good prints. The 81 Par, also in good preservation, gave good results, but the print was in grey-blue.

The 108 Par, greatly impaired on the right side of the outline, had a break from the second 0 to the post-horn. The reprint was carried out on lilac-rose paper.

The 5 Par was equally affected along the left side, the length of the ПОРТО word and also presented a break in the base line. Col. Gorjan, seeing the poor quality of these reprints, destroyed the greatest part, after he distributed a few copies to friends and relatives.

Last year, the printer Ion Popp, who prepared the reprints, sold a certain number to two or three collectors, good friends of his.

According to what Ion Popp told me the total reprinting was: 50 copies of 27 Par, 30 each of the 54 Par and 81 Par, 20 of the 108, and 100 of the 5 Par.

The succeeding Post Master Generals, thus informed, refused to authorize other reprints, given the rust affected state of the dies.

This is all I know about these reprints, which have disappeared from circulation and are even more elusive as the original copies of the first issue, to be seen occasionally in old collections.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Paulescu.

The contents of the Paulescu letter and the whole problem of the Gorjan reprints were investigated closely by M.P. Castle, former president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, who, in September and November 1902, published in *The London Philatelist* Numbers 129 and 131, two interesting papers.

In the first, the British expert stated

Figure 6. 108-parale original, enlarged.

that *if it was genuine*, the information from the quoted letter was of great importance. He found it was the first time he had learned something in connection with the Moldavian reprints. He then referred to the work by M. Bacon[11] on reprints in general.

M.P. Castle expressed his regret that this reprinting was ever made, and that the dies were still in existence, given the considerable value "of these round stamps." He stated that neither he nor any other philatelist he knew had seen any of these reprints up to that time, and he added that if they do exist, they are of great value. He also expressed the opinion (which I particularly emphasize) that collectors of Romanian stamps should not be alarmed because the reprints were carried out with inks and on a paper distinctly different from the originals. He made a distinction between the rest of the reprints and the 5-parale, because this, according to the English expert's

Figure 7. 27-parale, 1958 reprint.

opinion, "was reopening, once more, the debate concerning this stamp's status in its various aspects."

In the second paper, dated November 1902, Castle said he had received numerous letters concerning the contents of his September article, and he quoted two letters from Romanian correspondents. In one of them, E. Constantinescu from Braila claimed he owned two reprints (the 27- and 81-parales), and emphasized the fact that they were well carried out and that their number was very small, "which makes them rarities similar to the famous Mauritius stamps, and estimated to be of very high value."

Among those who wrote about Gorjan's reprints were Marinescu, a well-known Romanian collector, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* and — a genuine

11. Dr. L.N. Cristea, the quoted paper, see footnote 7.

Figure 8. 54-parale, 1958 reprint.

surprise — Capt. Moroiu, later identified as one of the forgers of Romanian early stamps.

Following the first paper of September 1902, Castle said he had an opportunity to examine a copy of the 27-parale and a series of four values (acquired by Stanley Gibbons at a very high price) and, thus, had reached, along with Marinescu and other reputed experts, an opinion about the Gorjan reprints. The English researchers (of whom I can identify only the two above-mentioned) concluded that *the four values investigated had been printed with the original dies and that they undoubtedly were reprints.* They stated that Paulescu's description was correct, but that the reprints were in colors slightly darker than the hues mentioned by him. They found the paper was also described properly, but the differences in respect to the original paper both in consistency and shade were so marked that it was impossible to mistake them. The damages suffered by the dies were, in fact, small, and the deteriorations (induced by rust) so insignificant, that, in the opinion of the experts, if the reprints had been made on a paper similar to the original "we would have trembled for the fate awaiting the first Moldavian stamps."

The opinion was further expressed that the events mentioned by Paulescu could not be confirmed, particularly in light of Capt. Moroiu's report. Therefore, those who acquire these reprints should exert great caution. Amazement was expressed that the existence of these reprints should only have become known twelve years after their printing, and the hope was expressed that the original dies would be destroyed because "they were too dangerous to be preserved, particularly in a country known for its great probity

Figure 9. 81-parale, 1958 reprint.

and honor."

At the time this paper was published in *The London Philatelist*, across the ocean, John N. Luff published in the *Philatelic Journal of America*, a study concerning the data of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. The study specified that the author had received two copies of the 27-parale reprints, one of which was canceled; that these copies were forgeries obtained by a photographic process; and that they were dangerous imitations of the Moldavian stamps. As fate would have it, in November 1902 another reputed expert, Charles Phillips, on the occasion of the A. Hind collection sale, received a letter from Bucharest warning him against the reprints and assuring him that they were "dangerous forgeries" made in the hope that they would be accepted as genuine copies later.

An English philatelic paper, *The Stanley Gibbons Journal*, in issues published at the end of 1902 and the beginning of 1903, closely examined this problem and expressed disagreement with the "reprints theory." This disagreement was caused by some doubts about the probity of one of the participants in the debate — Capt. Moroiu — who later was proved to be a forger.

Many years later, in 1933, the well-known student of Romanian stamps, R. Poncelet, after analyzing the reprints story, expressed the opinion in *Le Philateliste Belge No. 143* that there was an official truth in the matter.[12] Based on this, Col. Gorjan, when the original Moldavian dies were found, appointed a Commission to establish their authenticity. A couple of tests were made with black ink on white laid paper by the engraver Fessler, who was attached to this Commission and entrusted with the cleaning of the dies. Some samples were given to the appointed members; the dies were then stored again in their metal box, and were sealed.

The Philateliste Belge published the picture of four pairs of reprints, stating at the same time that they were the only ones in their original state, the others having been cut up, instead of left in pairs, as they undoubtedly were printed.[13] Poncelet asserts that the samples of each unique cliche of the 5-, 40-, and 80-parale stamps also were printed in black ink for the use of the Commission members.

Such Gorjan items have been found in various collections and sometimes even in exhibitions. For instance, the famous Cohen collection included a so-called "semi-official" reprint of the 5-parale stamp of the second Moldavia issue, in an auction in Switzerland.[14] Therefore, one can conclude that the Gorjan reprints existed, even though I do not possess the documents detailing the way they were prepared and distributed. They had an official character because the decision to print them was made by the postmaster general. Nobody would doubt their "official character" if a document concerning this reprinting could be found in any of the post office dossiers.

The status of a 1958 reprinting, undertaken, it seems, on the occasion of the centenary exhibition of Romania's first postage stamps, the "Moldavian Bulls," seems much more complicated now. It is an undeniable fact that in 1958 reprints were prepared on a yellowish piece of cardboard paper, with the original dies of the first two Moldavian issues, as follows:

27	54	81	108	5	40	80	parale

This item belongs to the Post Office Custody Office, and was displayed at the Romanian National Exhibition in 1974 (*Nationala* 1974) within the "official exhibit" of the post office under the heading: "The 1958 Reprints."

I assume, without any possibility of denial, these reprints had an official character, because of their description and status within the post office exhibit.

On the same occasion, that is, the 1958 centenary exhibition, reprints were prepared on waxed paper (transparent drawing paper) in violet ink, for the 27-, 54-, and 108-parale, and in black for the 81-parale in twenty-to-twenty-five sets. These reprints, I am told, were prepared to be offered as a memento to the members of the exhibition jury and its experts, but later were withdrawn from some of the recipients.

Figure 10. 108-parale, 1958 reprint.

Though discussions took place among collectors concerning the existence and character of these reprints and others (the latter concomitantly prepared, but having a private character, on white/greyish paper for the first issue and on laid paper for the second issue), officially this problem was never raised and debated. Such a debate is obviously overdue considering the presence on the international market of some copies of these reprints.

I wish to emphasize that these reprints were not carried out to mislead or with the intention of fraud, but with the idea of illustrating the state of the dies used for the Moldavian stamps one century before. This reprinting was not commercially inspired either, which is demonstrated by the very small numbers of each value reprinted. They were prepared with the original dies by the authorized representatives of the Romanian Post Custody Office, where the dies are kept. Even if no written documents concerning this reprinting can be found, their official character cannot be denied and their ultimate withdrawal must be considered as, at least, semi-official.

Following are the known features of the actual 1958 reprints:

— They were made with the help of the actual original dies, but printed manually, and are therefore genuine *"Neudrucke."*

— They are official because they were carried out under the supervision of a post office official who brought the dies, which otherwise could not have been obtained from the Post Office Custody Office. It is only of secondary importance to

12. As a matter of fact, this "official truth" was based on a statement made by Paul Focseneanu from Bucharest, as quoted in a paper published in the *Filatelia No. 11*, 1958.

13. This assessment is wrong because the reprinting was done in groups of three, one of which was detached afterwards.

14. Dr. A. Dumitrescu, the quoted work, pg. 32.

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know at what level approval for this operation was obtained.

— They were prepared in different colors and on a distinctly different type of paper than the originals, and therefore are distinct from any other reprints or originals. Thus, any possibility of speculation is excluded.

From a philatelic point of view, the 1958 reprints are both interesting and important. They aid the task of discovering any forgeries of the first Moldavian stamps by once more rendering the state of the original dies accurately. Thus, the reprints discredit the opinion that the dies had greatly suffered because of rust.

The reprinting on waxed paper allows a more intensive examination of the subtleties of the original dies, which previously had not been sufficiently observed and recorded because of the scarcity of the stamps and the fact that the dies are a very treasured and inaccessible item of the Post Office Custody Office. These reprints cannot be considered simply as comparison material for the jury of a given exhibition, or dismissed as mere imprints or any other such reproduction, because — as demonstrated above — they correspond by method of printing, and by appearance and features, to the unanimously and sufficiently well-defined notion of *"Neudrucke."*

The status of these reprints cannot be affected by the circumstances that followed, whereby certain official persons were left in the possession of some official or private copies. The reprinting must be recognized by the existence or non-existence of the philatelic elements that characterize it.

Present and future collectors of Romanian stamps, be they in Romania or abroad, should expect — quite legitimately — from the Romanian researchers, and especially the AFR, the known data connected with the reprinting of 1958. This is the only way a new and much more dangerous controversy about the famous Moldavian Bulls can be avoided.

To conclude, I would like to recommend a further study of the 1958 Centenary reprints, based on all the known facts and on the examination of philatelic characteristics of the items now in circulation. Such a study can only contribute to our knowledge of the first Moldavian postal issues and add to their philatelic interest and prestige.

A 624-page ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00

Overprint Proofs Of The "1918" & "Transylvania" Issues

By Dr. Ilie C. Demetrescu

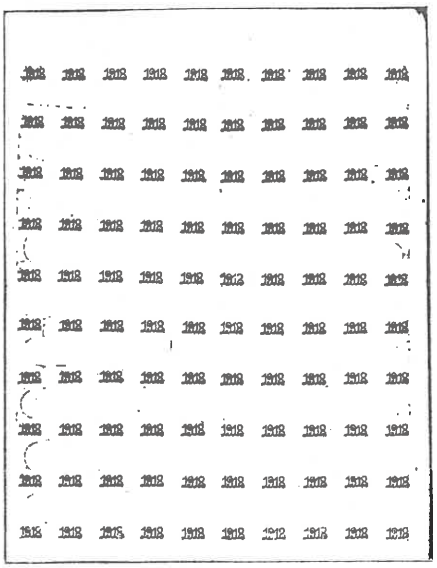
Overprinting of stamps is usually done under the pressure of an urgent need; therefore, the end product lacks perfection, and—what's even worse—can easily be forged.

The first overprinting of Romanian postage stamps was done in 1896 for use by the Romanian Posts in Constantinople. It was followed in 1906 by the application of the letters "SE" on some "General Exhibition" issue (Scott nos. 196-206) sets. At the end of WWI and even more so after this period, many other issues were overprints, so that by now more than 75 different Romanian overprints exist.

Very few proofs of Romanian overprints are known. These can be of two types, as they were applied either on stamps or on blank paper. In the second category only overprints for the "1918" and the "Transylvania" ("Cluj" and "Oradea") issues are known.

The "1918" Overprint

The stamps overprinted with "1918" as usually listed by catalogues are Scott nos. 241, 242, RA7, RA8, RA11 and RA12. A large number of "errors" has flooded the marekt, with overprints in other colors than the normal black or red, and/or on other types of stamps. These were able to be produced with the original plates, as the overprinting had to be done in a great hurry and without controls or work discipline. Some actually are printer's waste and under normal circumstances they should have been destroyed. Besides these fabricated (midnight printings) or legitimate (printer's waste) "errors" there are also countrfeit "1918" overprints.



For the "1918" overprint a proof is known made on an ordinary blank, brown yellow paper, 230x300mm in total size. The printing is on both sides in black. The overprint plate had 100 "1918" cliches for the 100 stamps on a sheet.

Each cliche has its own particular characteristic recognition signs, some of which can be seen with the naked eye, but most are visible only under a magnifying glass. The cliches were attached to the plate in a quite rudimentary manner, resulting in this series of minute typographical differences, which is helpful in identifying the position of the cliche on the printing plate, and therefore of the stamp on the sheet. The recto-verso printing (on both sides of the paper) of the 100 cliches gives us the advantage of the ability to double-check characteristic differences.

This proof was authenticated (on June 16, 1955) by Willy Nathanson of Bucharest, the renowned specialist of Romanian stamps, who signed one side of the sheet. Nathanson stated that this sheet had belonged to Stingheanu, the Director or Director General during WWI of the Romanian government in Jassy. Most probably, this sheet is unique and it serves as the best reference for authentication of stamps with dubioudi "1918" overprints.

Besides the above mentioned full sheet, I once saw a very irregularly printed fragment of a printing proof with 25-35 cliches, printed on only one side of the paper. I never saw it again and I don't know if it still exists.

The "Cluj" and "Oradea" Overprints

In 1919, the Romanian authorities in Transylvania overprinted Hungarian stamps, first in Cluj (July 26, 1919) and later in Oradea (October 25, 1919).

The late Dr. Adalbert Bela Szalay, of Sibiu, Romania, in 1935 published two volumesof "Hohere Philatelie" (in German). He described in very great detail (in over 1000 pages) these two issues and stated that no essays were made.

F. Konrad, of Oradea, Romania (presently living in Montreal, Canada) in the three issues of his Romanian catalogue (1946, 1947, 1948) lists the Cluj overprint in "gold" and "silver"

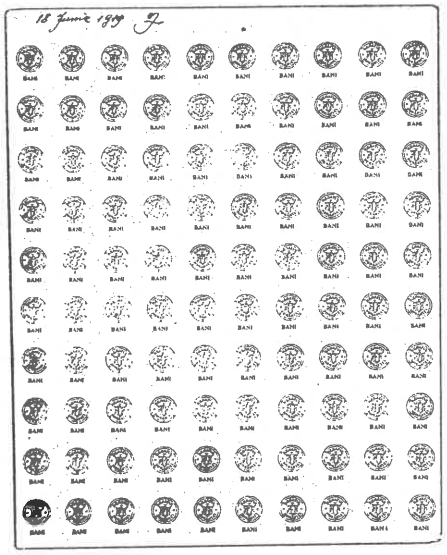
(two sheets of 100 stamps of each) on the 20 bani Karl stamps as proofs.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 calls them "essays" or "attempts to substitute white-bronze or yellow for the black color of the overprint, as it was not sufficiently visible on the dark brown background of the 20 bank Karl stamps."

The late Francisc Megyery of Oradea, Romania, in his letter to me of February 23, 1959, considered these stamps as proofs even though "the postal authorities did not destroy them as would have been logical, but later gave them franking power." These four sheets, as other scarce sheets of the "Cluj" and "Oradea" issues, were nearly entirely cut apart as singles and dispersed.

We show here a photograph of a full sheet of proofs on blank paper for the "Cluj" issue. It was made to enable further printings by checking the condition of the printing plate after it had been inuse and then cleaned with benzine. Generally such proofs were destroyed, but one sheet of these became the property of A.B. Szalay, who, on October 1, 1951, transferred it to me in a philatelic exchange.

The authentication certificate issued by A.B. Szalay states: "...I guarantee



the absolute authenticity of this sheet. I have not seen nor heard of another sheet of proofs besides this one; thus it is unique. The sheet bears my guarantee mark on each of its 4 corners."

This sheet was used by Szalay in the expertization of the Transylvanian issues. He had the habit of mentioning in his "certificates," among other facts, the position of the stamp in the sheet from which it came. After he parted with this sheet, Szalay used a sheet of the "harvesters" type for his expertizations as it was on yellowish paper with a very clear overprint. This proof sheet was also used by the late Onig Tulbengian, a highly knowledgeable dealer and specialist.

Essays for the "Oradea" issue do not exist according to Szalay, Megyery and recently done researches. However, proofs were made on writing paper after the plates had been cleaned. Megyery in his letter informed me that, in 1920, he saw such a sheet on yellowish paper, with "Oradea" type overprint, but never saw it again.

The two sheets of proofs on blank paper described above have been very helpful in authenticating the "1918" and the Transylvanian overprint issues. I suggest that in the future, when stamps are overprinted, several proof sheets of those overprints be prepared on blank aper. Besides those given to postal museums and official state collections, some sheets should be entrusted to philatelic organizations and/or recognized experts to be used for study and authentication.

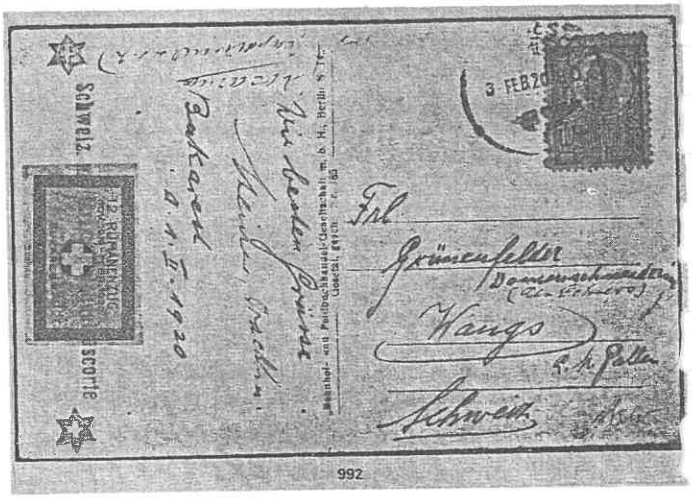
CORRECTION and ADDITION:

In No 2/1979 **Ladislau Rothman** of Israel presented an ambulatory border post office cancellation: EPISCOPIA BIHORULUI — PUSPOKLADANY, found on a Hungarian stamp. The editor presumes at that time that no return counterpart was used on that line. Now Mr. Rothman has sent a pair of these cancellations proving that they were of two different types; one for going and another for returning.

In addition, Mr. Rothman sent another type of Hungarigan cancellation used between CURTICI (Romania) and BUDAPEST (Hungary). As reported by Gabriel Sassower of London, the *Magyar Beljegek Monografiaja* part I, describes a pair of BUDAPEST—CURTICI—CURTICI—BUDAPEST cancellations and also illustrates a BUDAPEST—DECEBAL cancellation.

Gabriel Sassower of London, England, in connection with the *Identification Problems Surround Railway Transport Correspondence* by Wing Cmdr. R.F. Bulstrode (No.2, 1979), presents the above postcard offered at the Robson Lowe, 24 Oct. 1973, Basel Auction.

At the same time, in connection with the article *Romanian Cancels used in Russia* by Ladislau Rothman (No. 2/1979), Mr. Sassower presents a second cancel used in the city of Kherson by Romanian postal authorities, which supposedly replaced the first one after a few weeks of use. It is circular; the text reads: SERVICIUL TELEGRAFO—POSTAL KERSON and the date is changeable instead of handwritten as on the first one.



REVIEW: MARINA

This philatelic bulletin is published by the *Marine* topical study group of the district of Constanta. Their address is: P.O. Box 111, 8700 Constanta, Romania.

Written in Romanian,, it contains articles on vessels, explorers, naval history, bibliographies, etc. all concerned with *marine philately.* It illustrates special ship cancels, maximum cards, stamps and postal stationery depicting ships. Some issues have also *naval dictionaries* an useful addresses of vessels which, o request, will apply special ship cancels on S.A.S.E.s.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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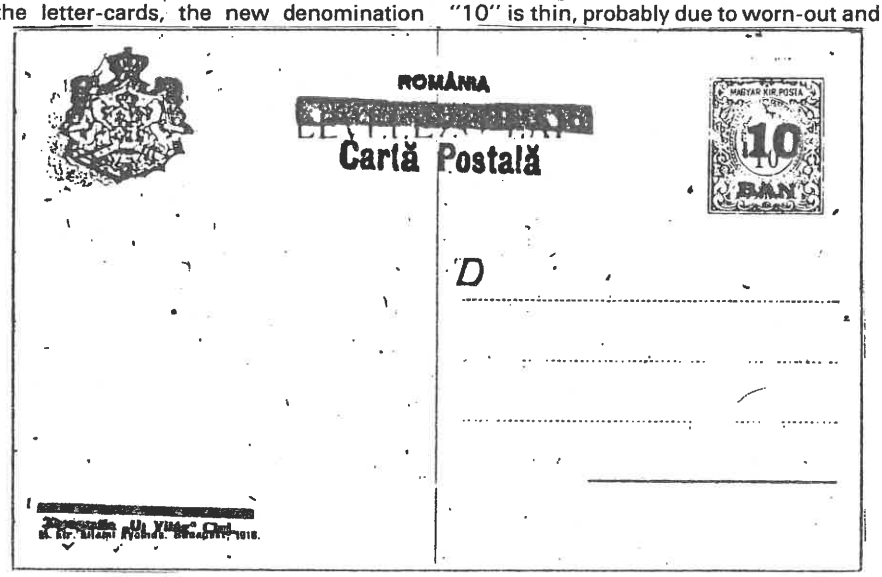
UNRECORDED POSTAL STATIONERY ERROR

Laszlo Eros, Str. Horia No. 19,
3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

At the end of World War I, Hungarian postal cards still present in the post offices of Croatia, Slovakia, Banat and Transylvania, after their unification with Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Romania, were overprinted by the new administrations. Large quantities of such material found in Timisoara and Cluj were overprinted with a new Romanian text and denomination and were used throughout the country as Romanian postal stationery until March 15, 1920.

In Cluj, the overprint was applied in 1919 at the "Uj Vilag" (New World) print shop on ordinary Hungarian 10 filler postal cards (Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 #CPM.1), Hungarian military postal cards without denomination (CMPR #CPM.3) as well as on Hungarian 20 filler letter-cards (CMPR #CPM.4). On the letter-cards, the new denomination was 15 bani while on the ordinary and the military cards it was 10 bani. In all of these instances, the overprint is in black. On CPM.1 (rose on cream cardboard), the overprint consists of the following: a Romanian coat-of-arms is applied over the Hungarian one and a thick horizontal bar is over the Hungarian words "LEVELEZO LAP" (Postal Card); above it is "ROMANIA" and below it "Carta Postala" (Post Card); "10 BANI" appears in two lines over the Hungarian imprinted stamp; a capital "D" is the abbreviation for "Domnului" or Doamnei" (Mr. or Mrs.); a bar on the lower left corner covers the Hungarian text: "M.(agyar) kir.(alji) allami nyomda. Budapest 1918" (Royal Hungarian state printing plant. Budapest 1918); and below it is found "Tipografia 'Uj Vilag' Cluj" ('Uj Vilag' printing plant Cluj). The position of the overprints varies due to imperfect technology and to haste; often the Hungarian text is clearly visible because of shifted overprinted bars.

A small quantity of the CPM.1 postal cards show a missing letter "I" in "BANI" and the right side of the numeral "0" in "10" is thin, probably due to worn-out and defective printing cliche. Although in a stock of 100 such postal cards acquired a long time ago, I found 50 cards presenting this error, it is still a scarce item.



FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Mircea Telegut,
Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13,
1900 Timisoara, Romania

The great depression of the 1930s was felt through the world. Its creation of large numbers of out of work persons is also reflected in philately. France had several issues with surtaxes for assistance to "Unemployed Intellectuals", such as Yvert #307 & 308 of 1935; #330-333 of 1936 and #343-344 of 1937.

While the Romanian post office did not issue such semi-postal stamps, the mayoralty of the city of Timisoara did issue a tax stamp (vignette) to be applied on administrative and financial documents, registration forms, etc. Its only denomination, 1 leu, is violet (various shades to dark violet), perforated 11½, and measures 20 x 26 mm. The center depicts the coat-of-arms of Timisoara while its text reads: "MUNICIPIUL TIMISOARA, 1 LEU PENTRU SOMERI" (Timisoara municipality, 1 leu for the unemployed).

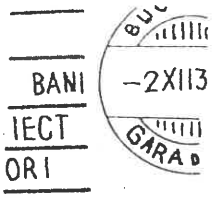
The fund collected by selling these "tax stamps for the unemployed" was spent mostly in Timisoara, the largest city in the country, where most industry and hence the out of work employees were concentrated, and was primarily spent to run soup kitchens.

Rom. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1980, IV, n. 2 (2)

19

24.5

31.5



48.5

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

In part 1 (vol 3, no. 3 1979), the listing for types 9, 11, 19 and 22 should be revised as follows:

9. Late - 1 November 1898.

11. Late - 11 October 1894.

19. BUCURESTI - G. NORD/MANDATE, double circles 26/16 mm, date in bridge, grille, letters 2 1/2 mm. Early - January 1913. Late - 3 January 1916. (For another postmark of the money order office, see type 54.)

22. Early - 9 January 1916 (coll. Pataki). Late - 26 April 1916.

The following new types are to be added to part 1:

24.5 GARA DE NORD/ . . . ENTELOR, double circles 31/18 mm, date in partial bridge, grille, DE in smaller letters (2 1/2 mm) than others (3 mm). Only date seen is a partial strike of 16 July 1919, in blue.

31.5 ?/GARA DE NORD/ZIARE, single circle 29 mm, date in bridge. Only date seen is a partial strike of March 1940.

Through a printer's oversight, the figures in part 2 (vol. 4, no. 1, 1980) were unnumbered. On each page, from top to bottom, they are (p. 12) types 35, 36, 39, 38, 37, 40; (p. 13) varieties of type 41, types 41 through 46; (p. 14) types 47 through 52.

The following new type is to be added to part 2:

48.5 BUCURESTI/GARA DE NORD, double circles 26/18 mm, date and probably hour in bridge, grille, DE in smaller letters (2 mm) than others (2 1/2 mm). Five or six horizontal lines and slogan. Probably continuous type. Only date seen is 2 December 1939, a partial strike on Scott 482, issue of April 1939, as illustrated.

ERRORS OF THE ORADEA—1919 OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Dr. Eng. Marcel Sapira,

Sos. Oltenitei No. 73, bl. 5, et. 2, apt. 10, 77504 Bucharest, Romania.

While the Cluj-1919 issue (with the exception of the "Floods" stamps) are characterized by numerous errors-almost every sheet has errors - the Oradea-1919 issues exhibit only two catalogue listed errors. Despite the abundance of printing varieties, type style varieties, etc. the major catalogues mention only the "inverted i in Bani" error on two values of the "Parliment" stamps: 75 Bani and 80 Bani (Fig. 1). These appear in sheet position 89 (row IX, column 9). The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 wrongly states that the "inverted i in Bani" error on the 75 Bani stamp is on position 12. These errors are listed in Zumstein but not listed in Scott.

Fig. 1

The Oradea-1919 issue had two printings and utilized a total of 15 different sheet types (Harvesters, Karl, Zita, Postal Savings, etc.) including two of the "Parliament" design. This issue was overprinted with the value starting with a capital letter followed by small, cursive letters. The Cluj-1919 issue was overprinted only with capital letters. Only the 75 and 80 Bani stamps were overprinted during the first printing but the second printing included all three Parliament values. The "inverted i in Bani)) error was discovered after the first printing and corrected before the second began. Therefore, this error cannot exist in the 50 Bani stamp as some philatelists believe. The total number of such errors produced corresponds with the number of sheets overprinted in the first printing:
3434 of the 75 Bani
319 of the 80 Bani.

The overprint's monogram of position 89 of the Oradea-1919 issue is similar to the one in postion 98 (rox X, column 8) of the Cluj-1919 issue. The following is a list of distinguishing characteristics of the monogram on original stamps (see "Errors of the Cluj-1919 Overprinted Stamp," Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 4/1979, for notations):

Break on the outside segment 3, under the letter "I" and "E" in "ROMANIEI."

Fig. 2

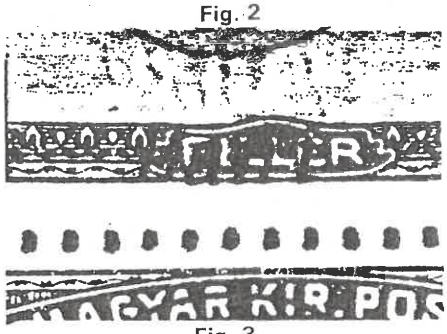


Fig. 3

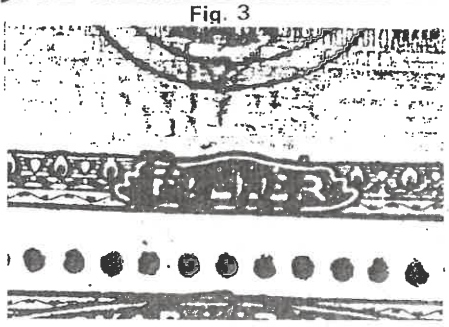


Fig. 4

R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1979, III, nr. 4

ERRORS OF THE CLUJ—1919 OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Dr. Marcel Sapira, Soseaua Oltenitei, No. 73, bl.5, et. 2, apt.10. 77504 Bucharest, Romania.

On November 24, 1918, the Romanian armies entered Transylvania. On December 1, 1918, the National Assembly of the romanians of transylvania and Banat issued a decree calling for the *union of these Romanians, and of all the territories inhabited by them with Romania.* The advancing Romanian armies in Translyvania were accompied by postal services which assured the fulfillment of the army's needs, and as it became more consolidated, those of the civilian population.

From the beginning, a shortage of postage stamps was felt. At the same time, paper to print new stamps was unavailable. Because of these circumstances, the Romanian postal administration in Cluj started on May 23, 1919, to overprint Hungarian stamps found in various post offices, and the issue became known as CLUJ—1919.

At the beginning, due to a lack of knowledge, this issue was considered to be local stamps, war stamps, occupation stamps or a private issue. Once rehabilitated, they were counterfeited by many and in large numbers. For years, the leading catalogues quoted them at very low prices or even ommitted them. These stamps, in use until December 31, 1921 (over 2 1/2) years), were extensively used for postage, and were valid not only in Transylvania, but also in the whole country.

THE OVERPRINTS

Hungarian definitive stamps in sheets of 100 were overprinted using 100 cliches of a circular monogram (Fig. 1) and the Romanian currency: BANI, LEU or LEI, each recognizable through its microscopically different characteristics. The relative position of the monogram is the same on all sheets it was applied on.

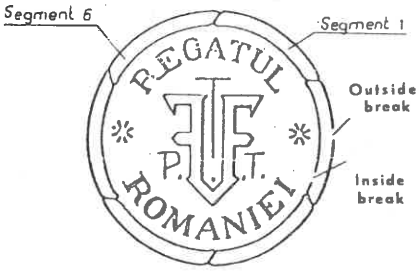


Fig. 1

The letters in BANI, LEU and LEI have some distinct characteristics on all of the 5 types of sheets overprinted, namely:

I. Small format stamps with the BANI overprint above the monogram (Harvesters, Postal Savings, Karl, Zita, etc.)

II. Small format stamps with the BANI overprint below the monogram (10+2 and 15+2 semipostals, Zitz 40 and postage Due stamps.

III. *Parliament* stamps with the BANI overprint.

IV. *Parliament* stamps with LEU an-Bani) overprint.

V. *Floods* stamps of 1913.

This division by type is necessary because some of the errors are characteristic to only some of these sheet types, as follows:

(a) The *BANI* error (also called *long BANI)* is characteristic for types I, II and III.

(b) The *LFU* error if found on type IV with the value: 1 *LEU.*

(c) The *LFI* error is found on type IV with the value in *LEI.*

(d) The *ANI* error is found only on the *2 BANI Harvesters.*

Checking for these errors is easy because the vast—majority of these overprints are clear and the characteristics of the monograms and of the letters in BANI, LEU, and LEI are quite distinguishable.

THE *BAN I* (long BANI) ERROR

The *BANI* overprint was made with typeset cliches of letters. A large portion of these cliches have letters with distinct characteristics. On one of the cliches the distance between the letter *n* and the letter *i* is visibly larger than on the rest of the. cliches. Two special characteristics of the *BANI* Cliche (Fig. 2) are obvious.

(a) The letter *B* has a break on the top.

(b) The letter *A* has a thickening, at left of its pointed tip (this is characteristic for 17 stamps on the sheet but only one of them has the *BAN I* error).

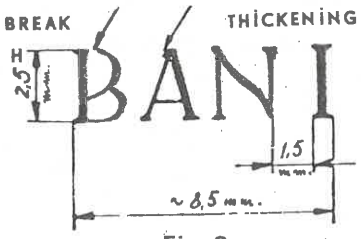


Fig. 2

This type of cliche (BAN I) can be found in various sheet positions, depending on the sheet type:

Position 2: on type I sheets - small format stamps, BANI above the monogram.

Position 99: on type II sheets - *Parliament* stamps. BANI below the monogram.

Position 92: on type III sheets - *Parliament* stamps with value in BANI.

The monogram on these positions can be identified by the following characteristics:

Position 2: Small break on the outside of segment 1 near the letters *A* and *B;* break on the inside of segment 2 near the star; break on the outside of segment 5; small break in the vertical bars of the letter *U* usually more visible on the right bar.

Position 99: Break in the interior of segment 2, just under the star and an excrescence above the star; small break in the lower part of the loop of the letter *R* in *ROMANIEI.*

It should be noted that only a small part

Fig. 3

of the *2 BANI Harvesters* (estimated to be about 60 sheets) present the *BAN I* error. Because the *BAN I* error can be found in corner blocks of four (Fig.3), such blocks are highly prized by collectors.

THE *LFU* and *LFI* errors

These errors can be found on type IV sheets (Parliament) with values in LEU and LEI. The *LFU* error occurs on stamps having the *1 LEU* value (Fig. 4) and the *LFI* error is found on stamps with the *2LEI* (Fig. 5) *3 LEI, 5 LEI* and *10 LEI* values. Although this seems improbable, it is true that these errors were discovered only after all the type IV sheets had already been overprinted. It was then noted that all the stamps in position 63 had the lower horizontal bar in *E* missing; thus the LEU and LEI overprints became LFU and LFI.

Fig. 4

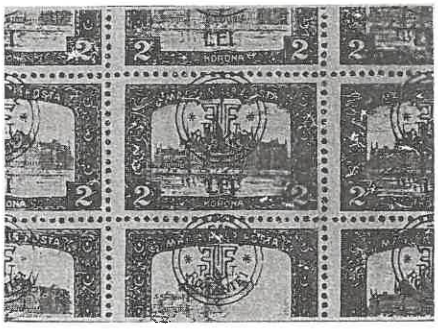


Fig. 5

Position 63, bearing this error, presents the following characteristics:

(a) Large break on the outside of segment 2, near the star;

(b) Small indentation in segment 3, near the letter *E*;

(c) Break on the upper part of the outside of segment 5;

(d) Break on the outside of segment 6, near *E* and G:

(e) Small break in the right vertical bar of the letter *N.*

THE *ANI* ERROR

This error appeared on the *2 BANI Harvester* because of the accidental detachment during the overprinting process of the letter *B* from a cliche of *BANI* (Fig. 6). This cliche is in position 42. The error was discovered after overprinting about 2100 sheets. The overprinting was stopped, the typographic block repaired and then it resumed. After overprinting about another 400 sheets, it was observed that during the repairs the letter *B* from the BANI block position 33 had fallen off. After a second repair, the overprinting continued.

Fig. 6

Some researchers contend that between the two repairs a number of sheets without errors were printed. While the sequence of the events in unimportant, the fact is that there are two distinct *ANI* errors:

(1) *ANI* in position 42 on about 2100 stamps;

(2) *ANI* in position 33 on about 400 stamps

If for the *BANI* and *LFU—LFI* errors the characteristics of the monograms are important for establishing the authenticity of those items - The identification of the characteristics of the *ANI* error becomes even more important because - at least for single items — this is the only way to determine the position of the error. The monogram presents the following characteristics *ANI* in position 42:
near the letters *T* and *U:*

(b) Two small breaks on the inside of segment 4, under the letter *O;*

(c) Indentation followed by a small break on the outside of segment 6 near the letter *G;*

(d) Black dot between the letters *A* and T.

ANI in position 33

(a) break on the outside of segment 5 near the letter *B;*

(b) Two breaks in the lower part of the letter *G;*

(c) The left letter *F* (in the monogram) has a break in its lower part, while the right letter *F* is blackened under its shorter bar;

(d) Black dots between the letters *M* and *A*, between *A* and *N* in *Romaniel.*

The *ANI—33* error with an inverted overprint is found only on a single stamp, originating from the unique sheet with inverted overprints containing this error. The *ANI* error can also be found on other values than the 2 *BANI Harvesters,* but these are only typographical errors and are not constant. They can be regarded as curiosities.

The vast majority of the errors on the CLUJ—1919 stamps are recognized varieties. The ZUMSTEIN catalogue, usually very suspicious when it omes to errors (FEHLDRUCK), lists the *ANI* error as no. 258—I, the *LFU* error as no. 271—I and the *LFI* errors ad nos, 272—I, 274—I and 275—I (on the stsmps of 2, 3, 5 and 10 LEI). The *BANI* error is mentioned with a value about 10 times that of a regular type. Likewise, the Romanian Postage Catalogue of 1974 lists the CLUJ—1919 stamps in detail with the errors.

MORE ABOUT THE FORGERIES OF THE MAIL COACH ISSUE

Don Heller, 206 W. Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801

I wish to add a few remarks to the discussion by Gustav Noska in Romanian Philatelic Studies Vol. 2 No. 4 (1978) concerning forgeries of the 1903 mail coach issue.

The type II forgeries are extremely common and may even exist in greater quantiy than the originals. The type I forgery must be less common; in any case, I have never seen one though, it is illustrated in some older works on forgeries such as Billig's "Grosses Handbuch der Falschungen, Rumanien III", Vienna, 1938, and Kurt Kayssner's Schach den Falschungen, Buckow, 1936. The Kayssner publication describes the Tupe I and II forgeries as *complete forgeries of French and Romanian origin, distributed by Waxman, alias Feldmann, Bucharest, among others.* Type I is Romanian and type II is French, and I will offer circumstantial evidence concerning the printer of the type II forgeries. Alden C. Johnston (Forgeries Old and New, Toronto, 1941) claimed existence of *about five different sets of fakes varying in excellence,* but I have seen no evidence that this is correct.

Forgery I

Original

The following remarks all apply to the type II forgery. It is printed in sheets of 48, arranged horizontally, eight rows of six stamps per row. The paper measures 260—279 mm (horizontal) by 215—223 mm (vertical), and occasionally bears the watermark *Papeterie de Renage (Isere)* in elegant script letters, repeated across the longer dimension; the repetitions are separated by an ornamental X. No more than one row of stamps per sheet has the watermark and it is not found on all sheets. Isere is a department in southern France, which supports the stated French origin of the forgeries. Paper from the same mill, which was owned by the firm of Bruel Freres has also been used on (genuine) stamps of Haiti, the Large Palms issue of 1891 (watermarked Renage pap. Rives) and the Centenary issue of 1904 (watermark identical to that of the type II forgery). The Centenary issue was printed by E. Cote of Paris, who is believed to have produced the numerous reprints of this issue, some of which also show the papermaker's watermark. The printer of the 1891 issue is unknown, but L.W. Crouch (The Stamp Lover, Dec. 1912) suggested that it was Cote, by comparision of the paper and perforations with the 1904 issue. This conclusion was later adopted by the Kohl Handbuch, 11th ed. For the same reason, I conjure that the mail coach type II forgeries were printed in Paris by E. Cote.

Continuing with a description of the type II forgeries, the selvedge of each sheet shows various marks such as dots, circular arcs: crosses, and miscellaneous lines or bars. This may be of interest to students of lithography. I believe that it is possible to *plate* the stamps to individual positions in the sheet, but have not attempted to do so. A brief Study of the sheets indicates that the common design was entered first and then individual numerals were entered. Certainly, each sheet shows a different composition and numerals are in different places on stamps within the same sheet. The 3 bani value in particular shows a number of consistent design variations. Further study is warranted.

Forgery II

Printed by *Nez Perce Printing & Publications,* P.O. Box 306, Lapwai, Idaho 83540

R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1984, VIII, nr 2.

The Inverted Overprints of the Cluj-Oradea Issue

DR. ENG. MARCEL SAPIRA, Sos. Olteniţei No. 73, bl.5, et.II, apt. 10 75504 Bucharest, Romania

Two of my articles, published in R.P.S. nos. 4/1979 and 2/1980, presented some of the errors of the Cluj-Oradea issues of 1919. This piece examines some details of the inverted overprints. Both these issues are listed by Scott in their Hungarian chapter while Minkus, Zumstein, Gibbons and Michel list them in their Romanian section.

Considering the haste in which the Cluj and Oradea issues were prepared and the large number of sheets overprinted, it is understandable that some sheets were inadvertently fed incorrectly into the printing press, thus receiving inverted overprints. At least, so goes the version of those claiming that such inverted overprints were not deliberately made to create philatelic varieties and rarities. Skeptics reject this version, stating that in cases of real errors such on the 50 Bani "Zita-Köztársaság" (Scott #6N43, Zumstein #339, Gibbons #852) of the Oradea issues, the mistake was observed only after the inverted overprinting of a relatively large number (49) of sheets (4,900 stamps) and, furthermore, that these were then sold at the post offices, whereas the other so-called "error" inverted overprints appeared only on the philatelic market.

The number of sheets of the Cluj issue with inverted overprints is well known. The same data on the Oradea issue is a matter of dispute. The table below lists only those issues known to contain at least one sheet with inverted overprints. The 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #6N18, Z.#309, G.#827) and the 6 Bani Postage Due (Scott #6NJ4, Z.#57, G.#D864), both of the Oradea issue, have not been included in this table. According to some researchers, a full sheet of each existed with inverted overprints, while others claim much smaller quantities.

Instances are known, when besides full sheets receiving the overprint, part sheets of varying sizes were joined by adhesive tape on the reverse to make up the same format as full sheets before being overprinted. Some of these blocks were mounted inverted. A sheet of the 15 Bani Harvesters is known with an incorrectly positioned block of 60 stamps receiving inverted overprints, becoming Scott #6N12, Z.#302, G.#821. In certain cases, only corner blocks were added to complete a sheet. In still other instances, sheets were made up by taping together stamps of the same denomination but of different types.

Zita- Köztársaság with inverted overprints.

Karl with inverted overprint

Philatelic literature has reported the following stamps of the Oradea issue with inverted overprints, to exist in quantities less than a full sheet: 2 and 3 Bani Harvesters (Scott #6N7 and 6N8, Z.#297 and 298, G.#815 and 816), 20 Bani Harvesters-Köztársaság (Scott #6N35, Z.#335, G.#844), 10 Bani Harvesters Magyar Posta (Scott #6N45, Z#344, G.#854), 10 Bani Karl (Scott #6N25, Z.#316, G.#834), 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #6N18, Z.#309, G.#827), 2, 10, 20 and 30 Bani Postage Due (Scott #6NJ2, 6NJ5, 6NJ8 and 6NJ9; Z.#55, 58, 61 and 62; G. #D862, D865, D868 and D869).

The inverted overprints of the Cluj issue include errors of which only one copy exists: of the four inverted 2 Bani Harvesters (Scott #5N2, Z.#258, G.#760) sheets, only one displays a single stamp with the "ANI" error; the inverted 3 Lei Parliament (Scott #5N15, Z.#273, G. #775b) sheet shows one stamp with the "LFI" error.

The Cluj and Oradea overprints have been counterfeited, sometimes quite well. A story that has made the rounds of those who specialize in these issues is that a famous counterfeiter displayed to a group of collectors of limited experience a sheet of the Cluj 75 Bani Parliament (Scott #5N11, Z.#269, G.#771). He pointed out to them the tiny characteristic overprint flaws, claiming that these proved it to be an original. Once given this publicity, he broke up the sheet into blocks of four and sold them. One such block was bought by Dr. Albert Szalay who later became a recognized expert on these issues. Szalay checked the characteristic flaws and was delighted by his aquisition. Later, two philatelist friends visited him and showed him their blocks of four of the 75 Bani Parliament (Cluj), with inverted overprints, acquired from the same sheet. To Szalay's amazement, these blocks had the exact same characteristic flaws that his had. The conclusion was clear. The counterfeiter, by tedious work, had created a cliche matching the signs of a genuine block of four and used this to overprint invertedly an entire sheet. We don't know how much truth is in this story, but Dr. Szalay often mentioned in his writings the existence of counterfeit Cluj 75 Bani Parliament inverted overprints.

Inverted overprints of which at least 100 were made

			CLUJ					ORADEA			
Type	Bani	Color	Qnty	Scott	Zumstein	Gibbons	Michel	Scott	Zumstein	Gibbons	Qnty
Harvesters	2	brown orange	400	5N2	258	760	26	—	—	—	—
Harvesters	3	red lilac	100	5N3	259	761	27	—	—	—	—
Turul	50	lake, blue	—	—	—	—	17	6N5	364	798	100
Parliament	50	red violet & lilac	-	—	—	—	37	6N17	308	826	100
Parliament	3 Lei	violet & indigo	100	5N15	273	775b	42	—	—	—	—
Karl	15	deep violet	200	5N19	277	779a	46	—	—	—	—
Karl	20	dark brown	—	—	—	—	47	6N26	317	835	200
Karl	25	bright blue	100	5N21	279	781a	48	—	—	—	—
Zita, BANI at top	40	olive green	100	5N22	280	782a	49	—	—	—	—
Zita, BANI at bottom	40	olive green	100	5N22	280	782a	49	—	—	—	—
Postal Savings	10	violet brown	300	5N23	285	B785a	21	—	—	—	—
War Charity	10+2	rose red	400	5NB11	281	757a	23	—	—	—	—
War Charity	15+2	dull violet	200	5NB12	282	758a	24	6NB14	322	813	100
War Charity	40+2	brown carmine	200	5NB13	283	759	25	—	—	—	—
Harvesters-Köztársaság	5	green	—	—	—	—	53	6N32	331	841	4,900
Zita-Köztársaság	50	lilac	—	—	—	—	64	6N43	3391	852a	—
Postage Due	20	green & red	100	5NJ7	51	D791	9	—	—	—	—

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine **FILATELIA** is available through the editor.

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R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1982, VI, m. 3.

The Enigma of the "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" marking.

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

In the "Indicatorul Localităților din România" (Directory of the Romanian Localities), published in 1974, there are two localities named "Măru Rosu" (Red Apple): one is listed as a village in the Isuratei parish, in Braila county, while another is listed as a village in the Corcova parish, in Mehedinți county. In the "Codul Poștal al Localităților din R.S.R." (Postal Codes of the Localities in R.S.R.) of 1974, we can find the same two localities, one "Măru Roșu" with postal code 6161, in Braila County, and another "Măru Roșu" with postal code 1489, in Mehedinți county.

Despite the similarity in names, however, these localities have nothing in common with that on a linear censor marking, used in 1919, that reads "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" and has beneath it a dotted line where the censor inscribed the date and signed. The length of the marking varies from 48 to 52 mm. and the text is "Censurat Măru-Roșu" or "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" with an extra "1" in "Mărul". The color is usually violet and sometimes red.

Censurat Mărul-Roșu

.....

During the same year, a circular double-framed censor marking (30 mm. in diameter), with the text "CENSURAT MĂRUL-ROȘU ROMÂNIA", was also used.

Covers with any of such markings are quite scarce. An examination of such covers leads us to conclude that all of them were either originated from, addressed to or went through the city of Arad during the second half of 1919 The stamps used on them were either Hungarian or Romanian, the later being of King Carol I type, with or without the "P.T.T.F.F." overprint in a circle (Scott 245-247 and 217-221).

Examples of covers known to the author with linear markings are:

July 16, 1919, from Arad to Craiova;

July 25, 1919, from Seghedin (Szeged, Hungary), via Arad to Lugoj;

Unlegible day and month, 1919, from Mezőhegyes (Hungary) to Pecica (near Arad);

Dec. 27, 1919, from Mezőhegyes to Pecica.

Examples of covers known with round markings are:

Oct. 8, 1919, from Arad to Lipova;

Nov. 7, 1919, from Arad to Arad.

These two types of censor markings resemble similar ones used in Banat, Crisana and Transylvania right after their unificaiton with Romania.

The fact that the majority of the above mentioned covers bear Hungarian stamps of the types used in the newly-annexed territories, suggests that this censorship office operated somewhere there.

Linear "Censurat Măru-Roșu" and "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" markings seem to have been used starting from July 1919, while only in Oct. 1919, the circular "CENSURAT MĂRUL-ROȘU ROMÂNIA" was put in use.

It can be surely stated, based on the above examined covers and, in particular, on the one sent from Arad to Arad, that this censor office operated in Arad.

However, it is still necessary to determine why the "MĂRU ROȘU" code name was used instead of "ARAD", the name of the city where the actual censorship operation took place?

The name "ARAD" was included in such censor markings starting in 1920 and continued in 1921. Also, were other similar code names used in other localities?

Anul I. — No. 1. NUMERUL 20 BANI 15 Martie 1896

Anunciatorul Mărcilor

JURNAL FILATELIC LUNAR

pentru Colecționari și Comercianți de Mărci

Director: I. NĂMĂȘA

IASCY. — STRADA LOZONSKI No. 6.

Anul I. No. 2 NUMĂRUL 10 BANI 25 Octombrie 1896

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Apare la 16 a fie-cărei luni

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Jurnal filatelic lunar pentru Colecționari și Comercianți de mărci

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BIBLIOTECA ACADEMIEI ROMÂNE

Romanian Philatelic Periodicals Additions

Sjlviu Dragomir

In addition to "Romanian Philatelic Periodicals" by George Pataki (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1981) I present here three photographs (portions of the title pages) of some 19th century Romanian philatelic magazines, listed but not illustrated.

"ANUNCIATORUL MĂRCILOR" was described in paragraph 11 and "FILATELIA ROMÂNĂ" (format and printer's type was changed after the first issue) was presented in paragraph 12.

The Censor Markings of the French Occupation of Arad

Mircea Telegut, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

At the end of World War I, after the collapse of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, the provinces of Banat and Crisana had for a while an ambigous situation because the Allied powers delayed the installation of the Romanian administration over these territories. The region was for a couple of months under a French-Serbian military administration. The Allied powers gradually allowed the establishment of the Romanian administration, which at the end of July 1919 was set up in Arad and in Timisoara.

Those events left their marks in philately through the overprinting of some of the Hungarian stamps found in the post offices and warehouses of those territories, creating provisional issues listed by most of the catalogues. Among these, the one named "Occupation Française", which was used in Arad during the French occupation is one of the most interesting.

According to Zumstein catalogue, this issue was not made at the order or approved by the Hungarian postal administration, rather by the Postal Directorate of Arad, stimulated by a group of philatelists. To officialize this issue, a written statement was sent to U.P.U. in Berne, Switzerland. There are many well executed counterfeits.

The issue has 56 denominations, 10 of which are postage due stamps. Blue or red "Occupation française" overprints were applied on Hungarian stamps of 1916-18 (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1

Covers or postcards bearing these stamps, actually used in the postal circuit, are extremely scarce despite the large number printed in many denominations. Most of the covers with these stamps bear favor cancels.

It seems that most of these stamps were bought up by philatelists, right after were issued, remaining at the post offices of Arad and its county, to be used on mail, only a very small quantity. During the period, the postal service continued to use Hungarian stamps without any overprint, which they had in their repositories.

The censorship of the mail was done by the French military authorities which administered this territory. In Arad, this was done by the 11th French Colonial Division under the comand of Gen. Ferret, and later of Gen. De Tournadre.

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

The operation of censoring the mail was attested by applying a round marking (Fig. 2), about 32-34 mm. in diameter, with two very close circles which in most of the instances are filled with ink thus looking like one, thick circle. The text is: "CENSURE FRANCAISE ARAD" and the color is violet. This censor marking can only be found on mail originating in Arad. I found this marking only on correspondence and printed matter mailed in May and June 1919, with the following dates: May 5, 1919 (Fig. 3), May 25, 1919 (from Arad to Caransebeş), May 31, 1919, and June 9, 1919 (from Arad to Vermes in Caraş-Severin county).

Another censor marking (Fig. 4) is bilingual: Hungarian and French. It reads: "Forgalom szünet miatt nem tovabbittatott; Censuré" (Not forwarded during interruption of traffic, Censored). It was applied in red ink.

The French occupation of Arad ceased in July 1919 when Mareshal Franchet d'Esperay, the comandant of the French armies in Orient, came personally to Arad to hand over the city to the Romanian Administration.

Forgalom szünet miatt
nem tovabbittatott
Censuré

Fig. 4

A Gem of Romanian Philately

This piece with three 40 Parale stamps of the second issue of Moldavia, on yellowish-white paper, belongs to the Fritz Heimbüchler (of Munich, West Germany) collection. These are obliterated with the very scarce "FRANCO" postal marking, written in the Cyrillic lettering, which was used from 1852 (thus dating back to prestamp period) until 1858.

The largest multiple usage known on cover is four copies. This fragment with three such stamps is the second largest such group of stamps. The clear imprint of the very desirable "FRANCO" marking makes this piece a real gem of Romanian philately.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

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R. Phil. Stud, N.Y. 1983, VII, nr. 3.

The "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" Overprints

Dr. Ion Ilea, Str. Petuniei No. 5, bl. 5. apt. 17, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Philatelic events, as described by various postal historians and catalogue editors, are sometimes presented in very different lights. One example of this can be found in the attitudes regarding the 1920 overprinting, in Cluj-Napoca, of Ferdinand stamps with a text reading "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók." Scott and Yvert do not list them. Michel and Zumstein do present them, but mention that they were approved by the heads of the "Posts, Telegraph & Telephone" (P.T.T.) Department of Transylvania but that the national P.T.T. Directorate, in Bucharest, refused to declare them official. Lipsia describes them as a private issue. The Romanian Philatelic Catalogue (issued in Oradea, Romania in 1946, 1947 & 1948), edited by Francis Konrád, states that they were "Issued in Cluj on the occasion of the Congress of Transylvanian Newsmen with the approval of the regional council. The issue was later declared unofficial by the Ministry of Posts in Bucharest because the overprint was in two languages, Romanian and Hungarian." Before accepting any of these statements at its face value, philatelists would do well to delve into the history and official documentation behind this issue, as presented below. Based on this information, they may then form their own opinions as to whether or not these stamps are legitimate and/or acceptable according to their own personal standards.

The "Newsmen's Central Association of Transylvania and Banat" arranged a congress to take place in Cluj during the summer of 1920 for the purpose of discussing professional matters. The organization asked the General Directorate of Posts (Postmaster General's Office, in Bucharest) for the issuance of a set of stamps to commemorate the event. By Decree No. 1,134 of Aug. 16, 1920, this office approved the request with some change. It ordered the Cluj Regional Directorate to take the following measures:

1. The Cluj post office treasury was to release to the Newsmen's Association a number of definitive stamps.
2. A temporary post office was to be provided on the premises where the convention was to be held. The Cluj post office would supply it with 2 or 3 mailmen to collect, cancel and deliver the mail, as well as a supervisor to handle registered mail.
3. The stamps the Association bought would be allowed to be overprinted "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" as long as their denominations were not altered.
4. The overprinted stamp were to be used only on domestic mail and only on Aug. 21-22, 1920, after which they would be considered void.
5. Such stamps were to be obliterated only by the cancelling device of the Cluj I post office.

Overprint with serifed letters

The Cluj Regional Directorate' memorandum No. 34,420 of Aug. 17, 1920, relayed the central body's approval to the Newsmen's Association. Nine denominations of the Jan. 1920 (large effigy) Ferdinand definitives, in sheets fo 100 (10 x 10), were supplied to be overprinted. The table below sets forth the denominations overprinted, catalogue numbers assigned by the major catalogues to the unoverprinted stamps, as well as the stamp, paper and overprint colors.

The overprinting was done in great haste, as there were only a few days between the receipt of permission to proceed and the date of the congress opening. Inspector Constantin Jurcan, of the Cluj Regional Directorate of Posts, supervised the process in the printing shop of the Newsmen's Association in Cluj-Napoca. The setting of the overprint was less than perfect due to the rush. As various typefaces were pressed into use, three types of overprint resulted.

I. "Ziaristi" about 8mm. long in antique (serifed) letters (rows 1, 2, and 3);
II. "Ziaristi" about 7mm. long in block (san serif) letters (rows 4 and 5);
III. "Ziaristi" about 7mm. long in antique (serifed) letters (rows 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10).

Furthermore, as the lettertype utilized was of Hungarian manufacture, no Romanian letter "ş" (with a cedilla below) was available. Counterfeits of this overprint, show a cedilla beneath the "ş" in "Ziariştі" while originals do not. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, illustrates an enlarged counterfeit overprint, with the letter "ş" in "Ziariştі," instead of the genuine overprint.

Overprint with sans serif letters

Ziariştі
1920
Ujságirók

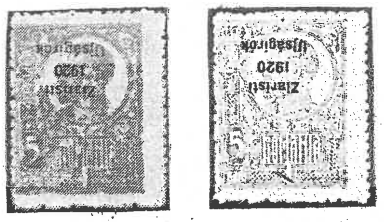
Counterfeit overprint with "ş" in "Ziariştі"

Denomination	*Scott*	*Michel*	*Zumstein*	*Stamp*	*Paper*	*Overprint*
1 ban	248	251	366	black	grayish	gold*
5 bani	249	252	367	yellow green	grayish	black**
10 bani	250	253	368	rose	grayish	black**
15 bani	251	254	369	red brown	grayish	black
25 bani	252	255	370	deep blue	white	red
40 bani	254	257	371	gray brown	grayish or white	gold*
50 bani	255	258	372	red orange	white	black
1 leu	256	259	373	gray brown	white	black
2 lei	258	261	374	orange	white	black**

*Black overprints are known; their authenticity is subject to doubt.
**Inverted overprints are known (probably 100 of each); some philatelists claim they are counterfeits, while others consider them genuine but admit that these "errors" were probably deliberately made.

Available data on the number of overprinted stamps is contradictory. "Buletin P.T.T." No. 10/1921 gives the number of overprinted sheets of 100 in ascending order of denomination as 501; 101; 11; 101; 11; 101; 101; 11; 11. Readers should note that each figure ends with the numeral "1" and will probably question why such odd number would have been chosen for every denomination. Perhaps the explanation lies in that one sheet of each value was meant to go to some special destination (such as a high ranking official or the Ministry of Posts). However, even allowing a substraction of 100 stamps (1 sheet) for each, the resultant respective number of stamps still comes to 50,000; 10,000; 1,000; 10,000; 1,000; 10,000; 10,000; 1,000 and 1,000. With the exception of the 25 bani value, all of these are higher (some markedly so) than Konrad's respective figures of 2,500; 2,500; 900; 2,500; 1,000; 2,500; 1,500; 900; and 900. Konrád recently stated that his figures were obtained from a stamp dealer. This dealer may have had an ulterior motive on lowering the figures of stamps available, as this would tend to raise their selling prices. On the other hand, it is possible that the offical date represents the actual number of overprinted stamps, while the lower figures show the quantities reaching the temporary post office, with the differences having "disappeared" somewhere in the shuffle. The discrepancies cannot be explained away by assuming that the higher figures represent amounts produced, and the lower ones amounts sold, as we must assume that the issue was sold out. At that time, the custom was to officially destroy unsold remainders and record this act in official documents. As the documents which normally would have recorded the destruction (had it taken place) make no mention of such a process, we have to assume that it never took place and that none of the stamps went unsold.

The congress, held in the Cluj Hungarian Theater, included a specially built indoor booth. This structure served as the temporary post office and was marked "Localul Postei Ziaristilor" (Newsmens Post Hall). There, overprinted stamps were sold over the counter and/or affixed by the clerks on letters or cards presented for mailing. As per instructions, the stamps were obliterated with a "CLUJ I" canceller. The mails were then sorted and sent to their destinations. As these stamps were valid only on Aug. 21 and 22, 1920, any displaying postmarks later than Aug. 22, 1920 must be considered "favor cancelled." The Lepage Book and Stationery Co. is known to have sold originals on covers, but cancelled "KOLOZSVAR H 1 H," not "CLUJ I," dated "29 AUG. 920," rather "21 (or 22) AUG. 920"—



Inverted overprints

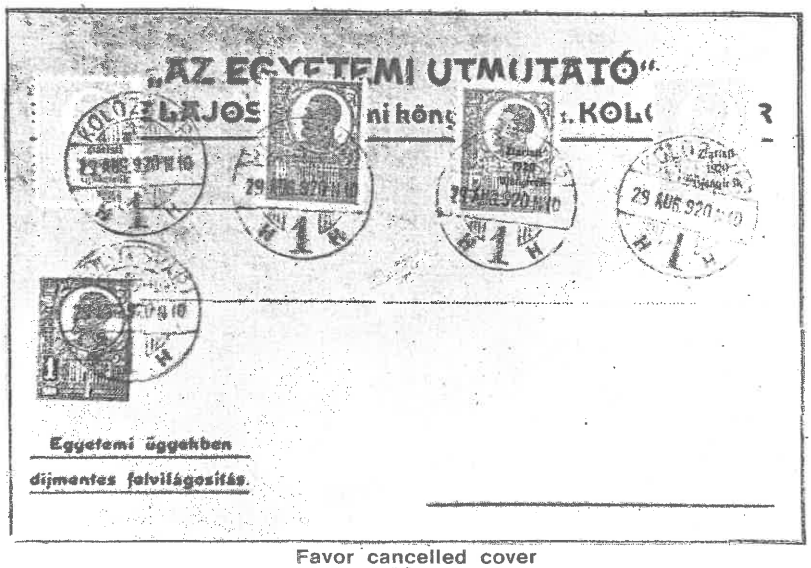
thus favor cancelled.

Aug. 21, 1920 marked the official visits to the postal booth by Otto Ámon, Newsmen's Union treasurer, and Nicolae Schreiber, a notary public. The notary recorded the number of overprinted stamps placed on sale as well as the names of the postal clerks servicing this facility. Furthermore, he attested that this office was processing mails franked with the overprinted stamps.

After the special post office closed the next day, the postal clerks, Inspector Jurcan and Otto Ámon were invited to the notary's office. Also present were Ladislau Groisz and Emeric Szegö, representing the Newsman's Union, Iulius Kovács who was in charge of the shop which did the overprinting, and Lajos Rohonczy and Andrei Benedek, representing the philatelists. At this meeting, the conditions under which the "Newsmen's Posts" was operated were officially delineated, and recorded by the notary. On Aug. 29, 1920, he compiled a statement which was signed, notarized and registered (No. 1,084/1920), saying:

"The notary public has personally observed the handling of ordinary as well as registered mail, deposited by the public at the Newsmen's post office which was established on Aug. 21, 1920, and that such mail was franked with overprinted Romanian stamps. It is officially certified that the Newsmen's postal booth was a post office, and that letters bearing stamps overprinted "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" were cancelled with the Cluj post office's official canceller. Furthermore, the number of overprinted stamps has been recorded, as well as the fact that Cluj Postal Directorate Decree No. 34,420/1920 and Postal Comptroller's Commission Decree No. 1,257/1920 authorized the overprinting. After completing the overprinting, the printing plate used was dismantled." (Had unsold remainders existed, their fate would have had to have been mentioned in this document).

At the time of their issuance, no specimens or samples of these stamps were sent to Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) headquarters in Berne, Switzerland. (It is doubtful that the U.P.U. would have been interested in such stamps, in any case. The U.P.U. calls for specimens to supply other members states with copies of a country's stamps in order that new issues be recognized as valid when they arrive from abroad. The overprints in question, valid only for internal use in the country of issue, would thus be outside the U.P.U. domain). In July 1921, Otto Amon sent a memorandum to the Brasov Postal Directorate, asking that a set be sent to the U.P.U. in order to gain its official recognition of the issue. Not only did he enclose a mint set, but also postally used covers, as well as legal papers supporting his position from both the Cluj Regional Postal Directorate and the Postal Unification Commission (which had been created to promote uniformity of postal rules in territories acquired by Romania after World War I with those regulations governing the rest of the country. Based in Bucharest, it consisted of representatives of the General and Regional Postal Directorates). Furthermore, Ámon in-



Favor cancelled cover

cluded the notarized document describing the overprinting and sale of this set.

The Brașov Directorate sent the petition and its accompanying enclosures on the Postmaster General's Office, in Bucharest. In turn, the material was forwarded to the Solicitor's Department Research Office. Here, it was rejected on July 4, 1921 (Notification No. 96). The Postmaster General Consultative Commission rejected a subsequent appeal on July 14, 1921, publishing this decision in "Buletin P.T.T." No. 10/1921 (pp. 71-73). It has already been mentioned that according to F. Konrád, there was an objection to the Hungarian language being overprinted on Romanian stamps. The official objection to this set was that it was speculative, yielding profits to private parties. It should be emphasized here, once more, that the objections raised and the repudiation of the set came well after the "fait accompli" of their being produced, issued, sold and used on mails, all under postal supervision.

The documents presented above clearly show the legitimate birth of the set. While extraneous considerations, such as its local production and sale as well as its speculative nature, do tend to make some philatelists wary of including it in their collections, nevertheless the set should not be denied catalogue recognition. Of course, catalogue listings should also include the various footnotes, conform to the available facts, in order that collectors be able to decide for themselves.

An Item of Philatelic History

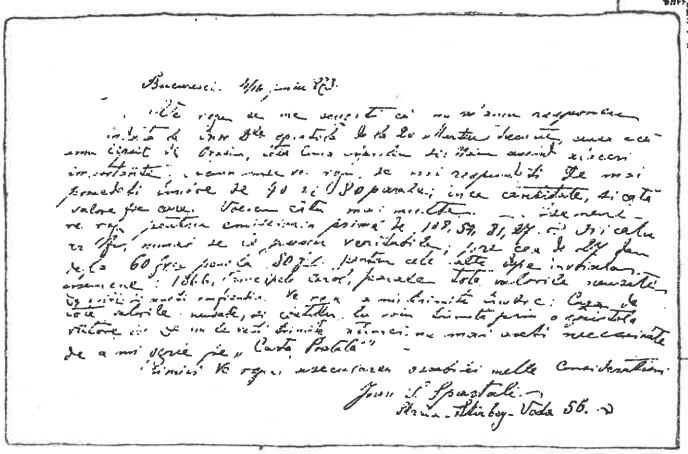
Paul C. Laptev, 17 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3JD, England.

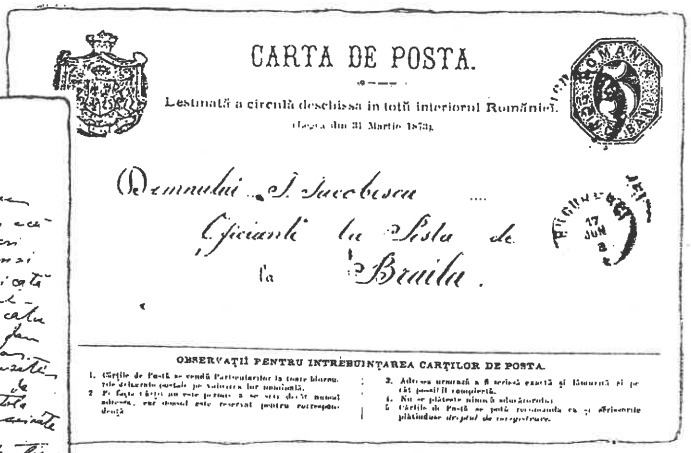
Collectors of Romanian classics will be interested in the conclusions that can be drawn from the message on the 1873 card of which I submit reproductions in reduced size. It is the message half of a double card (H & G #2, CMPR #CR2) of the early issue, exhibiting the break in the coat-of-arms and the circula, decat, cat, etc. punctuation. It shows a doubly struck circular marking of the "thimble" type, with the year indicated by its last digit only. Addressed to Mr. I. Iacobescu, an employee ("oficiant") at the Brăila post office, it is dated Bucharest 4/16 June, 1873. A translation of its text reads: "Please excuse the delay in replying to your note of March 20th last, the reason being my absence on important business during all of April and May. Now, however, I ask you to let me know if you still have 40 and 80 parale stamps; in what quantities, and at what price each. I want as many as possible. Also I would ask you for 108, 54, 81 and 27 stamps of the first issue. As many as you have, as long as I find them to be genuine; for the 27 parale I pay 60 to 80 francs. For the others by agreement. Likewise: 1866 Prince Carol, parale, all denominations mint. If you wish, and have confidence, please send me Cuza stamps of all denominations mint and I can send payment in a future letter. If you do so, you no longer need to answer on the "post card". Please accept the assurance of my distinct consideration. Ioan S. Spartali, Str. Știrbey-Vodă 56."

Less than 15 years after the issuance of the Moldavian stamps (July 15, 1858 in Jassy only), we have evidence not only of significant activity in stamps collecting and dealing, but also of the existence of counterfeits. One could speculate about the privileges enjoyed by a Moldavian postal employee who purchased stock of the first issue, presumably at face value! It is also interesting to note the apparent disregard for used copies of the Cuza and first Prince Carol issues.

The subject of then current pricing requires further analysis. We do have the stated offer of 60 to 80 francs for copies of the 27 parale, Romania's no.1, of international fame. The term "franc" had been in use for many years (and still is to this day) as a slang French import. As such it signifies the unit of currency. However, in 1867 parity between the French franc and the newly introduced gold standard "LEU" became a fact. The decree introducing the first Romanian monetary system, a measure which until then had been opposed by the Turks, called for a bimetal standard (gold and silver), modelled after that of the Latin Union (France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland). It set the value of the national unit "LEU", at exactly 1/20th of the French "Napoleon", a 20 franc gold coin. The following year, a Romanian 20 lei gold coin was minted in Bucharest. It weighed precisely the same 6.452 grams and likewise consisted of the same 900 parts per 1,000 gold. In 1873, therefore, prices were interchangably quoted in lei or francs. While I am not in the position to ascertain the exact purchasing power of the leu at the time, a few bench marks follow:

-dinner for one at Capșa's (the best restaurant in Bucharest) cost 5 lei;
-an imported men's hat of the best quality cost between 5 and 10 lei;
-the building of a log-raft on the Bistrița river, complete with the fashioning and assembly of rudder (price of materials not included) was quoted at 40 to 50 lei. I have only included the last example for its quaint aspect. The other two, however, may allow readers to establish a price update for the 27 parale-a reasonable investment, it would seem.





Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Rom Phil Stud., Wy, 1981, V, nr. 4.

† PROF. DR. ENG. ILIE C. DEMETRESCU

On July 25, 1981, Ilie C. Demetrescu, reknown Romanian researcher passed away in Bucharest. Born in 1898, Ilie C. Demetrescu studied engineering in Romania and received his doctoral degree in Munich, Germany.

Ilie C. Demetrescu was active in philately for over 60 years. He published many articles, lectured and shared his vast knowledge and the results of his studies with his fellow philatelists.
He specialized in Romanian essays and proofs and, in 1958, he received the Grand Prix of the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Bucharest. For his outstanding activity, Ilie C. Demetrescu was named Honorary Member of the Philatelists' Association of Romania.

Romanian 'Asistenta Sociala' Charity and Postal Tax Due Stamps

By George Pataki

Some philatelists sometimes find it hard to understand the legal requirements and social customs of other countries. One such instance is the use of the semipostal stamps (listed separately by Scott with B numbers), where the user of postal service, franking his mail with such stamps, actually is overpaying for the required service, voluntarily or involuntarily, sometimes by a significant amount. Another, but related field, is the usage of postal tax stamps. These are issued for various purposes such as relief, charity, culture, aviation, etc. Use of some of these has been voluntary, while others were required to be affixed, at some time, on correspondence and/or various fiscal and administrative documents. Scott lists some of these stamps, while others are not mentioned at all.

The first Romanian charity stamps were isued in 1913 (see "Assistance Stamps," Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1980) and were voluntarily used. In 1915 their use became mandatory. In 1921 it was decided to transform the relief surtax collected through stamps (which had had some justification during and right after the war) into a new "social assistance" tax. Through the sale of these stamps, it was intended to obtain funds for support of various private organizations engaged in social welfare work.

Out of the numerous Romanian charity sets, we present here the "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" (social assistance) stamps (Scott lists only the lower values, RA13-15; Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue AS. 1-7) which were introduced in 1921 (the last printing was done in 1928) and used until Dec. 31, 1929.

ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamps

Seven values were issued for various purposes:

10 bani—for postal cards and picture postcards (light green, green, dark green, yellowish green, dark yellowish green, green gray, bluish green, olive green);

25 bani—for letters (black, gray black, olive black, gray);

50 bani—for telegrams, parcels, money orders (carmine rose, red);

1 leu—for telegrams, parcels, money orders (violet, lilac);

2 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (blue);

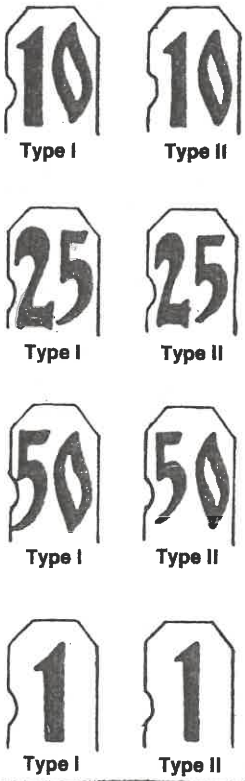
5 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (gray, dark gray);

50 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (yellow, orange).

The four lower values, besides being used on domestic postal matter, had to be affixed on official applications and certificates. The three higher values were primarily used on fiscal documents and obliterated with an administrative cancel or a linear "ANULAT" (void) or "CANCELAT" (cancelled) marking. While at times they can be found with postal cancellations (on inter-departmental monetary transfer forms for taxes on telegraph and telephone), the majority of these are favor cancelled. In the rare cases when such are found on postal documents, such as forms accompanying cash shipments, their postal usage can be positively established, and they have philatelic value.

All seven value show the same design, an allegory of a young woman, in Romanian national costume, attending an old man and a child. The top reads "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" (social assistance), while the bottom bears the denomination and the word "ROMANIA." Note the absence of the word "Posta" (posts). Below the lower left corner, in small and undistinguishable letters, are the designer's or engraver's initials.

The stamps were printed on sheets of 100, at the Printing Works in Bucharest, on white paper of varying thickness. For the 10, 25, 50 bani as well as the 1 leu stamps two cliches were used, differing in design (thickness and height) of the numerals of the denominations. The two different types for each of these values result from the original cliches being reengraved in order that the numerals not dominate the entire design. The differences being difficult to see even with a magnifier, it is no wonder that all specialized Romanian catalogues identified two types for only the 10 and 25 bani stamps. The late O. Gh. Boehm, a very meticulous researcher, differentiated the two types for the 50 bani and the 1 leu stamp.



Type I numerals are thicker and those of the 10, 25 bani and 1 leu are also taller than those of the reengraved Type II (3.75 mm. instead of 3.50 mm. thick for the 10 and 25 bani values; 4.25 mm. instead of 3.75 mm. for the 1 leu value). Type I of the 1 leu has the "1" 0.8 mm. thick, while on the Type II this is only 0.7 mm. On the Type II 50 bani, the

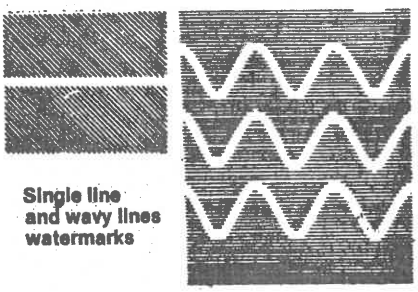
"5" is 0.1 mm. thinner than that on Type I. A variety known on the 50 bani (Type II) has numeral "0" broken. For the high values I have not been able to establish different types or varieties, due to a lack of larger quantities of such material for study purposes.

Broken "O" variety

The printing was deficient. While some stamps show a perfect impression, others are very poorly produced, especially the lower values (10, 25 bani), probably because they were printed in larger quantities and their plates were worn out faster than those of the higher values. According to Boehm, impressions of the heads of nails (used to affix the cliches to the printing board) can sometimes be seen between rows of stamps. The design was likewise primitively done.

The papers utilized are as follows:

1. white, unwatermarked, thin or medium, smooth, sometimes with fine pores;
2. white, unwatermarked, very thin, transparent, always smooth (pelure);
3. white, vertically (slightly oblique) laid, smooth;
4. white or slightly yellowish, unwatermarked, very thick, smooth or porous. Varieties are: laid paper, 10 bani green and 25 bani black; very thick paper, 10 bani green, 25 bani black, 50 bani rose, 2 lei blue and 50 lei yellow; pelure, 25 bani black; single horizontal or vertical watermark line, 10 bani green and 25 bani black; horizontal or vertical wavy lines watermark only on 25 bani black, 1928 issue (Bavarian paper).



Single line and wavy lines watermarks

Perforations found on these stamps are line: 13½, 11½, 11½x13½, 13½x11½, and comb: 13½x14. Stamps imperforate horizontally or vertically as well as with double vertical perforations are known as follows:

a) pairs, imperforate vertically: 10 B (dark green), 25B (olive black), 50 B (red), 1 L (lilac), 2 L and 5L.

b) pairs, imperforate horizontally: 25 B (olive black) and 50 L.

c) double vertical perforation: 10 B (dark green), 25 B and 5 L.

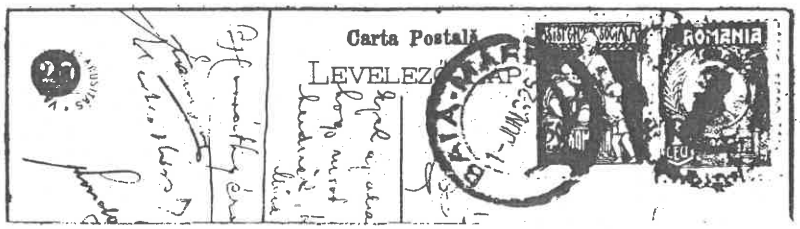
At some time during the spring of 1924 the rates must have changed. On postcards, 25 bani charity stamps replaced the 10 bani stamps earlier used. In rare cases, a 50 bani charity stamp can be found on postcards, but this is probably due to the unavailability of the proper lower value, or to the lack of knowledge of the sender, rather than because of another rate increase.

The requirement to affix "social assistance" stamps on domestic mail was strictly enforced, unlike the later introduced postal tax stamps for culture, aviation, etc. In 1922, postal tax due stamps (Scott RAJ 12-19, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue PF.17-24) were issued to be used when the required charity stamps were not affixed on postal matter. In 1922, 10 and 20 bani stamps were printed on white and grayish white paper; in 1924, 10, 20, 25 and 50 bani stamps were prepared on greenish yellow paper, and in 1926, 25 and 50 bani stamps were made on white paper.

All denominations show the same design which is almost identical to that of the postal tax due stamps issued in 1916, the only difference being that the text on the bottom reads "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" instead of "TIMBRU DE AJUTOR." On the top it reads "ROMANIA," below it, inside a round frame is the denomination, below that, slightly to the left, it reads "TAXA DE PLATA" (postal tax). The name or the initials of the designer or engraver do not appear on these stamps but on the almost identical "Timbru de Ajutor" postal tax due stamps, in the lower left corner is an imprint: "AUDISIO," probably the designer or the

Initial use of the 10 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postal cards

Later use of the 25 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postal cards



Occasional use of the 50 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postcards

ASISTENTA SOCIALA postal tax due stamps

engraver of both of these sets. The size of the design is 19.0x24.5 mm., and of the entire stamp is 22.5x28.5 mm., with minor variations. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 at the Printing Works in Bucharest. The color of the printing varies from brown to dark brown, yellowish brown, olive brown and reddish brown. The papers used are as follows:

1. white, medium thick, smooth;
2. grayish white, medium thick, smooth (very rare with a horizontal or vertical watermark line);
3. greenish yellow, medium thick, smooth;
4. white, thin, smooth.

Varieties known include the 1922 10 and 20 bani stamps on watermarked paper with one horizontal line (scarce). The 1924 20 bani stamp can be found with the frame line broken in the lower-left corner, as well as with a diagonal line from the letter "S" in "SOCIALA" running to the lower-left side of the frame. The 25 bani of 1924 is known with double vertical perforation 13½. From the end of June 1926 until Sept. 1926, in Northern Moldavia, the 50 bani postal tax due stamp fo 1924 was used bisected (vertically or horizontally) on court summonses due to a lack of 25 bani charity stamps.

This presentation is only a starting point for further research by those who have access to large quantities of these stamps. Many questions still have to be answered concerning the number of stamps printed, the rates applicable in different periods, the names of the designer, engraver, etc.

SOME COMMENTS REGARDING THE "SPIC DE GRIU" DEFINITIVES OF 1900 AND REPORTING AN UNLISTED WATERMARK VARIETY.

Paul Laptev, 17 Sloane Ave., London SW3 3JD, England

At the May 10-11, 1980 symposium on Romanian Postage Stamps and Postal History held in London, Mr. Hans Georg of Baden-Baden in West Germany presented a very detailed and excellent study of the Carol I issues of 1893 and subsequent years well into the nineteen hundreds. To Romanian collectors, these stamps have come to be known as the "Spic de Griu" sets because of the spikes of wheat that are incorporated in the frame ornamentation of most of the known values. This applies to the 1 BAN, 1 BANI, 1½, 3 and 15 bani, 1 leu, 2 lei and also to the unissued version of the 25 bani value which was nevertheless used the following year (1894) on the international money-order forms.

While other English translations of Spic de Griu have been used, I suggest that spike of wheat is the correct one as confirmed in the cover story of the January 1981 issue of the "Scientific American", a source few people would want to dispute. The latin SPICA is the common ancestor not only of SPIC and SPIKE but also of the french EPI, the accepted translation into that language. Wheat on the other hand is the universally correct translation for GRIU (formerly GRAU), whereas the generic term "corn" would only be correct inasmuch as it describes the main crop cereal in a given region or country, and could therefore mean not only wheat, but also mais (as in corn on the cob) etc. Finally, the term "ear" describes the same, but unshelled cob of corn.

The definitives thus referred to were issued between 1893 and 1908 but the design was reused in 1911 for a 1½ bani yellow newspaper stamp and again in 1918 on the 25, 40 & 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei values of a mixed war set.

An illustration of the potential open to the specialized collector, emerges from the description of the July 1900 special issue on watermarked paper known as "Fragmente". This pseudo-watermark was dry-stamped onto the paper after its manufacture and extended over a vertical 4 x 5 block of stamps (112 x 138 mm) thus showing the complete coat-of-arms of the Romanian Kingdom six times per sheet of 150. The paper was imported in rolls from France and carried the manufacturer's own watermark along the edge of the paper. the inscription: JOHANNOT ET Cie ANNONAY in 7.5 mm high letters extended over a length of 162 mm or between 6 and 7 times the height of a stamp, which was repeated at intervals approximating the height of a full sheet.

Normally, this paper trade-mark fell outside the printed area and was eventually discarded as sheet margin. Occasionally however due to shift of the paper during the printing process, it would fall in the area of the marginal (right or left of the sheet) columns of stamps showing parts of the letters. The shift varied quite a lot, resulting in cases (extremely rare) of the second column of stamps from the edge of the sheet also showing Johannot watermark fragments.

This second watermark is frequently found on the unwatermarked issues of the Spike of Wheat printed on Johannot paper (due to the vastly larger number printed) and Mr. Georg, in his paper argues that since it is possible to find stamps having both the Coat-of-Arms fragments as well as parts of the Johannot watermark, such "finds" would be so rare as to rank close to the first issue of Moldavian Bulls of 1858. This of course is somewhat of an exaggeration but the authors of the 1974 Romania Specialized Catalog (CMPR) who list the existence of these anomalies, assign value ranging from 100 times to 30 times basic for the 3 bani, 15 bani and 1 leu values of the set.

The inference is that other values exhibiting the two watermarks had not been reported at the time of CMPR going to print.

I am pleased to report that I have in my collection a 40 bani dark green of the dual watermark variety. It comes from the second row, fifth (far right) position in the block of 25, (position B-5) with the Coat-of-Arms fragment superimposed on the letters NOT as illustrated. The watermarks are shown as seen from the front of the stamp indicating that the Johannot caption is right side up from the edge of the sheet as would be expected. CMPR lists the Johannot varieties as existing in positions 5 and 7 only for the unwatermarked and Coat-of-Arms fragments issues of the Spike of Wheat stamps.

The same paper was also used in 1903 for the "Caisori" Postal Headquarters Inauguration set but, in this case, I have always found the watermark in positions 6 and 8 for which I have no explanation to offer.

I hope that the above will be of interest and will generate further comments on the use of the Johannot paper as well as further reports of dual watermark anomalies.

1944-45
TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Salajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

R. Phil. Stud, NY, 1981, V, nr. 2.

ROMANIAN PARCEL POST STAMPS

George Pataki

These stamps (Scott#Q1-7) were used to collect postage fees for mailing of packages, sample merchandise, cash as well as on money orders. Two distinct designs were used: the first from September 15, 1895 to December 31, 1908, and the second from 1928 to 1932. Between 1909 and 1928, and after 1932, the mailing fee for the above mentioned items was paid in cash.

The design of the first issues resembles that of the 1881 postage due stamps except that its text on top reads "TAXA DE FACTAGIU" instead of "TAXA DE PLATA". At left, "POSTA", sideways, reads upwards while at right, "ROMANA", also sideways, reads downwards. The bottom cartouche contains the currency, "BANI", between 2 small stars. In the center, within an oval frame, is the denomination "25", while the 4 corner boxes show postal horns. Outside the oval frame are stylized ornaments. The size of the stamp is 30 x 26 mm. while the size of the design is 27.5 x 23 mm. The stamps were delivered to post offices in panes of 50.

The pseudo-watermark on the 1895 printing is in relief and was imprinted after the paper had been fabricated. Stamps of the 1905 printing, with fragments of "JOHANNOT ET CIE ANNONAY" (the name and town of the French paper company) watermark came from sheet margin copies.

An imperforate proof is known, in black on unwatermarked cream paper.

According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, there are 6 issues of the first design, on various papers and various colors, etc. as follows:

YEAR	DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	WATERMARK	PERFORATION	REMARKS
1895 (Sept. 15)	25 BANI	brown red	thin yellowish or white; also horiz. laid	pseudo-wmk. small coat-of arms with top left or right	line: 11½; 11½x13½; 13½x11½; 13½	
1896	25 BANI	vermilion	yellowish or white	idem	idem	known tete-beche
1898 (Oct.)	25 BANI	vermilion or brown red	medium or thick white	large 14½ mm "PR"	idem	known tete-beche and, with one perf. on 3 sides but another on 4th side.
1899	25 BANI	idem	ribbed	large "PR" reversed	line: 11½x13½; 13½x11½; 13½	
1905	25 BANI	vermilion	thin white tinted rose on back	fragments of JOHANNOT ET CIE ANNONAY (scarce)	line 11½; 11½x13½; 13½x11½.	known imperf. (very rare); vert. pair imperf. horiz.
1908	25 BANI	idem	white	—	line: 11½; 13;	

On December 31, 1908, these parcel post stamps, were withdrawn; in October 1938, "Ferdinand" type, 10 Bani, light yellowish-green stamps (Scott#263, which had been issued Sept. 9, 1923) were overprinted in carmine or red "FACTAJ 5 LEI". The three-line overprint presents various varieties. There are 2 types of the numeral "5": one with long "tail", the other with shorter "tail", both being found on the same sheet. There is also a variety with closed loop of the numeral "5". The word "LEI" displays 4 varieties classified by width, height and color:

1. 16 x 10½ mm., carmine,
2. 16 x 10½ mm., brick red,
3. 15½ x 11 mm., brick red,
4. 17½ x 9 mm., brick red.

There are also various spacings between the 3 lines.

Inverted overprints are known only on used stamps, originating from one single sheet sold at one of the post offices. Horizontally or vertically shifted and incomplete overprints have also been reported.

These stamps were printed by the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Printing Works), Bucharest, in sheets of 200, but the sheets were cut in half and the stamps delivered in sheets of 100 (10 x 10).

Their characteristics are as follows:

YEAR	DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	WATERMARK	PERFORATION	REMARKS
1928	5 LEI	light yellowish-green	white	—	comb; 13½x14	known wmk. horiz. line.

In 1932, these, the last of the Romanian parcel post stamps, were withdrawn and once again the postage fees for packages, sample merchandise, etc. were paid in cash, closing a chapter in Romanian philately.

R. Phil Stud., NY, 1981, V, m 1

A COLLECTIVE PROOF OF THE ALBA-IULIA ISSUE

DAVID GIJIRIGUIAN, New York, N.Y.

The Alba-Iulia set of 7 stamps was issued on October 15, 1922 in connection with the coronation of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie. Proofs exist of issued stamps and essays of the unissued ones. The designs of the essays and proofs were created by Ludovic Basarab, who was the designer of several other Romanian stamps of the period. The essays and proofs, as well as the stamps were produced in Munich by the Bayerische Staatsdruckerei (Bavarian State Printing Works). These are the first Romanian issue which show the watermark of horizontally or vertically set wavy lines (Scott watermark no. 95, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74 watermark no. XI, Michel wz. nr. 3) which is similar to one found on Bavarian stamps.

According to the information provided by Edouard Cohen ("Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbre-Poste de Roumanie" - Lisbon, 1945), Basarab presented several artist's drawings, from which twelve were selected and proofs were made. Of these twelve, seven were adopted as the final designs of the stamps (Scott #283-289; R.P.S.C. '74 #389-395; Michel #286-292; Yvert #302-308). These twelve were printed in various colors and values on two kinds of material: (a) on thin cardboard, (b) on paper, watermarked with horizontal or vertical wavy lines. Some of these proofs are perforated 11½, while the others are imperforate.

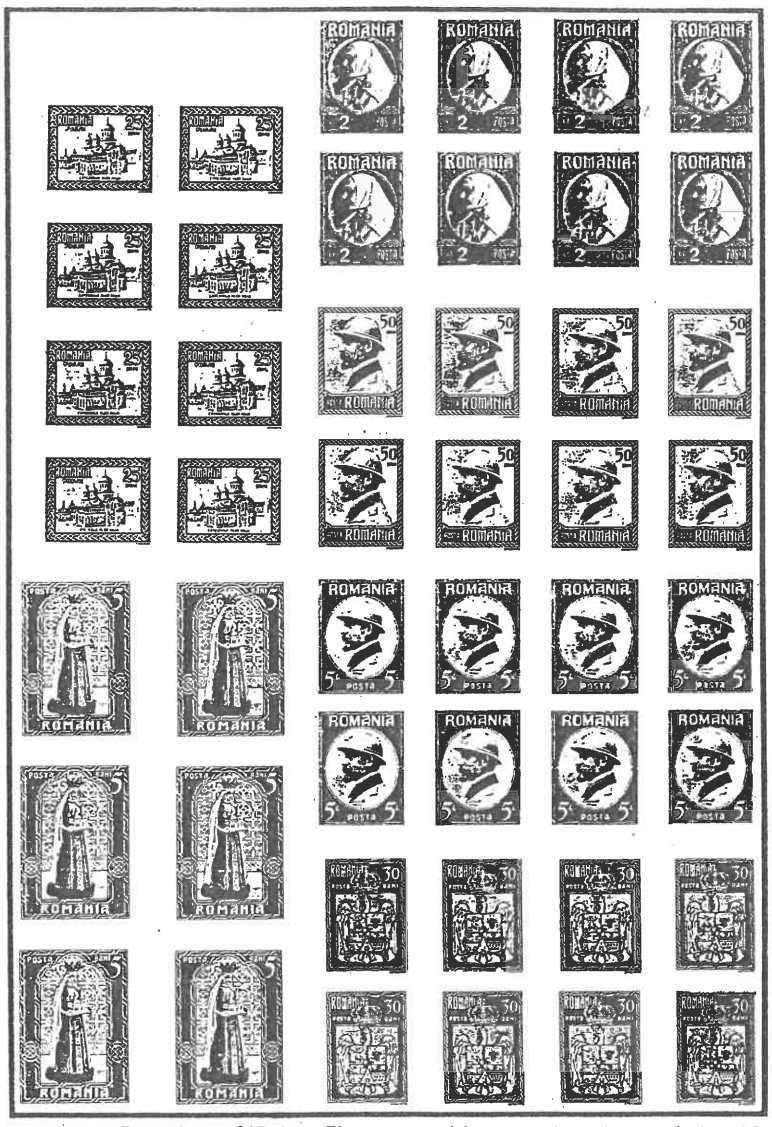
Cohen mentions that the proofs on paper with watermark were presented in sheets of 86 each containing the 12 proofs with 6 or 8 copies of each on the sheet. The Romanian Catalogue mentions the existence of proofs on watermarked paper and on thin cardboard, but when describing the ones on thin cardboard mentions them as on "ordinary paper". We believe that the authors of the Romanian catalogue meant to say that these are on thin cardboard. The way in which these proofs are presented in the Romanian catalogue might lead to the wrong conclusion that there are proofs on ordinary paper, without watermark. To the best of our knowledge such proofs on ordinary unwatermarked paper do not exist.

The collective proof whose description follows is on thin, white cardboard, measures approximately 17x25 cm., and contains 6 different proofs, each impressed a number of times, for a total of 46 items on the pane. All printing is in dark blue.

1) 8 times the 25 Bani proof of the accepted 5 Bani stamp (Cohen Fig. 98) with the designer's name on the lower right side of each proof.

2) 8 times the 2 Lei essay of the unaccepted design (Cohen Fig. 94) without the designer's name.

3) 8 times the 50 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 102) of the accepted 3 Lei stamp, with the designer's imprint.



4) 6 times the 5 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 105) of the accepted 6 Lei stamp, without the imprint.

5) 8 times the 5 Lei proof (Cohen Fig. 100) of the accepted 25 Bani stamp, without the imprint.

6) 8 times the 30 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 101) of the accepted 50 Bani stamp with the imprint. The second item of the first row (30 Bani) has the lower frame borken. The existence of such an error is mentioned by Cohen (page 60).

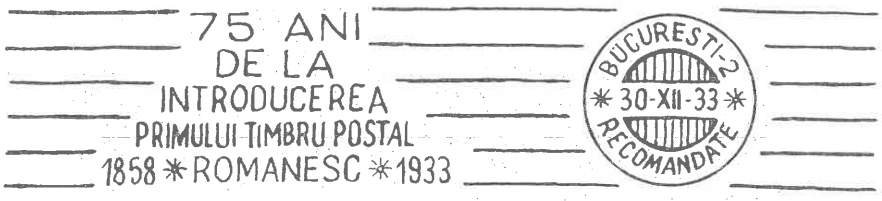
This collective proof seems to have been part of a larger sheet which was cut vertically in 2 parts. Based on the above description we may presume that the printings on thin cardboard were also put up in sheets of 86 as on watermarked paper (described by Cohen), after all, it is likely that the arrangement of the various items would be the same, as the first test on cardboard would simply have been repeated on the type of paper that the printers actually intended to use for the finished product, that is watermarked. Unfortunately, Cohen does not give the position on the sheet of the 12 watermarked proofs. Such being the case, no comparison can be made between the collective proofs of the watermarked series and those on thin cardboard. If among the readers of "Romanian Philatelic Studies" there are owners of the complete sheet, or part of it, on either watermarked paper, or thin cardboard, they are urged to study and compare their holding in order to clarify whether there was one printing, with the same cliche arrangement, for both the watermarked paper and the thin cardboard series, or 2 separate printings, with different arrangements, on 2 kinds of materials.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently 3 similar sheets were sold at auction. They have the same cliche arrangment as the above and were printed in violet, blue and carmine. All were on thin cardboard.

Also, George McNamara of STAMPAZINE, New York, reports that his company has for sale three similar sheets on thin cardboard: olive-green, yellow and orange.

The Romanian "Gratuit" (Franchise) Stamp of 1933

by George Pataki



In December 1933, the Postmaster General sent the G.P.O. in Bucharest the following memo:

AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION
OF P.T.T.
Directorate of Operations
Dept. of Operations
To the Manager of the P.T.T. Bucharest
File Number 212.908-1933

According to the provisions of the special agreement concluded between this administration and Mr. Peter Visoianu, attorney at law, Mr. Visoianu will deliver to your post office the books: "75th Anniversary of the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933" for mailing as registered printed matter, to persons and institutions listed in the table drawn up by you and certified by the P.T.T. Administration and the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The required postal fees having been waived according to the agreement, the sender will have to pay for only the 50 Bani postal tax stamp for aviation on each book, to be affixed in accordance with the law creating the national aviation fund. The books will be submitted in envelopes made of thick paper, having a corner card reading: "Administration for the Commemorative Book, 75th Anniversary of the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933, 16b Lascar Catargiu Blvd., Bucharest."

On envelopes containing the books the sender shall affix a green stamp, bearing the inscription, "GRATUIT 1858-1933" and a picture of a mailcoach.

To cancel the packages, a special cancel will be made under the supervision of Mr. Visoianu: "75 Years Since the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933."

"Mailing made conform memo order No. 212908/933" may be printed on the envelopes containing the books.

Make sure that the mailing be done quickly and that undistributed as well as returned copies be returned to the sender.

After completion of the mailing, send us one completed mailing checklist and the other two to Mr. Visoianu.

General Director — Chief of Service
Eng. Oct. Costacea — N. Georgescu

This memo explains the unusual circumstances in which the "GRATUIT" (Free of Charge) stamp of 1933 was utilized. The book's first part contained "The Origins of the Romanian Posts" by Constantin Minescu while its second part described all Romanian stamps issued since 1858.

Although not listed by Scott, this stamp is described in the specialized Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 (page 426). It is green on white, unwatermarked paper. Printed by the intaglio method in panes of 25 stamps (5x5), it is imperforate, and comes gummed or ungummed. Not only a stagecoach is depicted but also an airplane. The design measures 42 x 26 mm. Printed on both sides and double-impression varieties are known.

Cancellations consist of a slogan with the text required in the above memo and a date portion reading: "BUCHAREST-2 RECOMANDATE" (Bucharest-2 Registered) 30-XII-33 (Dec. 30, 1933).

GOLD

At **STAMPSHOW 84** (Spokane, Washington) organized by the American Philatelic Society, **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** was awarded a **GOLD MEDAL.** The editor wants to thank the subscribers for their continuous financial support and the researchers for their excellent articles and to share with them this great honor.

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WANTED for postmark study **ROMANIAN** postal cards, postcards and covers used before 1945. Send them with asking price. George Pataki - Editor.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

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The Romanian Official Stamps 1929-1932

by George Pataki

Starting in 1929 when the Romanian Posts became an autonomous agency, all the authorities and governmental institutions, from village and county to state level, which up to then had free franking privileges, had to pay for postal services.

The government approved this measure in order to enable the Postal Administration to balance its budget, which before 1929 was subsidized. A quarter of all the mail handled by the Romanian Posts was official correspondence which was a heavy burden to service without adequate compensation.

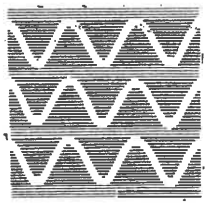
For the official mail, "official stamps" were issued and intended for use only by the authorities. They were purchased from the postal administration and were used only on official correspondence bearing seals with the coat-of-arms of the users.

Two designs were used: the first one issued in 1929 was overprinted in 1930, the second one was issued in 1931 and 1932.

1929, Eagle With Flag,
Wmk. horiz. wavy lines

All 10 stamps of this issue (Scott #01-010) show the same design: a flying eagle carrying a flag bearing the coat-of-arms of the provinces

of Banat, Muntemia (Walachia), Moldavia and Transylvania. The denomination is in the lower right corner and on top of it is the royal crown. The text is "ROMANIA" and "TIMBRU OFICIAL" (Official Stamp). They were printed by the photogravure method in Bucharest at the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory). The size of the stamp, from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, is about 21.5x26.5 mm., the size of the design is 18x22.75 mm. The paper is white, the watermark is of Type XI (horizontal wavy lines).



The set consists of the following stamps: 25 bani, orange; 50 bani, dark brown; 1 leu, dark violet; 2 lei, green; 3 lei, rose carmine; 4 lei, dark olive; 6 lei, greenish blue; 10 lei, blu; 25 lei, carmine brown; 50 lei, purple.

Color varieties include: 50 bani, brown bronze and 6 lei dark blue. They are perforated 13½. The 6 lei value also exists with perf. 14½x13½, while the 2 lei, 3 lei, 6 lei and 10 lei exist with perf. 14½x14.

Perf. varieties: 50 bani vertically imperf.; 1 leu horizontally imperf.; 6 lei vertically imperf. Furthermore, the 6 lei also exists with multiple perforation, for example 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on the left side and 13½ on the right side.

1930, Eagle With Flag
ovpt. "8 IUNIE 1930"
Wmk. horiz. wavy lines

On the occasion of King Carol II's return to the throne of Romania (Restoration), the 1929 issue was overprinted in black with "8 IUNIE 1930" (Scott #015-024). The size of the overprint, as well as of its letters and numbers, varies slightly because of the haste in work and lack of sufficient indentical typefaces. For example, the height of the letters and numbers varies from 1.5mm to 2mm., the distance from "8" to "I" in "IUNIE" varies from 0.5mm. to 1mm. and the distance from "E" in "IUNIE" to "1" in "1930" varies from 0.75mm. to 1.25mm.

The paper and the perforations are identical to the previous, unoverprinted issue, the watermark is also the same: type XI (horizontal wavy lines). The set consists of the same 10 values as the one described above.

Perforation variety: the 6 lei exists perforated 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on one side and 13½ on the other side.

Overprint varieties include: inverted overprints on the 25 bani, 2 lei, 4 lei, and 6 lei values. While the normal overprints are on the top of the stamps, the inverted overprints are on their bottom. Horizontally shifted overprints are also known, some of them even on two adjoining stamps. On regular overprinted postage stamps, the "8 IUNIE 1930" overprint is known with errors like "3 IUNIE 1930", "8 IUNIE 1980" and "8 IUNIE 1938", but these errors have not yet been reported on overprinted official stamps.

While the "8 IUNIE 1930" overprint was forged on regular postage stamps, making them more expensive (when the forgery is not discovered), for example on the 1928 "Posta Aeriana" (Air Mail) stamps with vertical wavy lines watermark, forged overprints on the official stamps have not yet been reported. Catalogue prices for the overprinted set is almost identical to those of the unoverprinted set, mint or used, therefore overprinting these stamps lacked financial incentive.

1930, Eagle With Flag,
ovpt. '8 IUNIE 1930", Unwmkd.

Four denominations were issued (Scott #011-014) on white unwatermarked paper as follows: 25 bani, orange; 50 bani, dark brown; 1 leu, dark violet; 3 lei, rose carmine.

The perforation is 14½x14, the 25 bani and 50 bani stamps are also perf. 14½x13½, and as a variety both exist perforated 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on one side and 13½ on the other.

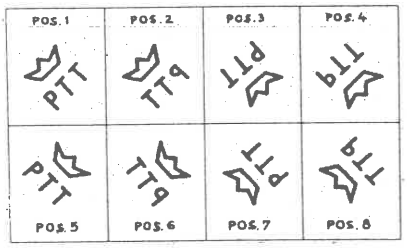
The 25 bani and the 50 bani stamps are also known, each in 100 copies, without overprint,

showing only the press marks ("blinddruck" in German).

1931, Coat-of-Arms with Lions, Wmk. P.T.T.

Four stamps were issued (Scott #025-028), designed by Ary Murnu (his name is in the lower right corner), showing the royal coat-of-arms, flanked by two lions, the denomination, and the words "ROMANIA" and "TIMBRU OFICIAL." The size of the stamps is 26x21mm. the size of the design is 23.25x18.5mm., and they were typographed in Bucharest at the "Fabrica de Timbre." The paper is white, the watermark is of type XII (crown over P.T.T.). The following stamps were issued: 25 bani, black; 1 leu, violet; 2 lei, light green; 3 lei, rose carmine.

The 25 bani, 1 leu and 3 lei stamps are perf. 14x14½ while the 2 leu stamp is perf. 13½.



1932, Coat-of-Arms with Lions, Wmk. C.C.

Five stamps were issued (Scott #029-033), perf. 13½, identical in design with the previous issue but with watermark type XIII (crown over "II" and "C" and "C" back to back) as follows: 25 bani, black; 1 leu, violet; 2 lei, light green; 3 lei, rose carmine; 6 lei, red brown.

The unoverprinted 50 Lei official stamp is known to have been counterfeited.

The number of issued stamps was unlimited as they were printed according to the necessities.

The printing method is photogravure.

The official stamps were taken out of use on March 15, 1932.

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ROMANIAN STAMP CLUBS

Below we publish the mailing addresses of the county stamp clubs organized by the Philatelic Association of Romania. In our experience, most of these clubs do not answer correspondence from western collectors and researchers. However this rule is not ironclad and those interested can take their chances.

A.F.R. Stamp Clubs	Mailing Addresses
Alba	P.O. Box 66, 2500 Alba Iulia
Arad	P.O. Box 62, 2900 Arad
Argeș	P.O. Box 31, 0300 Pitești
Bacău	P.O. Box 16, 5500 Bacău
Bihor	P.O. Box 138, 3700 Oradea
Bistrița	Ștefan Pop, Aleea Pionierilor Nr. 6, bl.B2, 4400 Bistrița
Botoșani	P.O. Box 11, 6800 Botoșani
Brașov	P.O. Box 1154, 2200 Brașov
Brăila	Constantin Mihalache, D.J.P.Tc.,Str.Danubiu Nr.8, 6100 Braila
București	Str. 13 Decembrie Nr.19, 70707 București
Buzău	P. Constantinescu, Bd. 23 August Nr. 39, 5100 Buzău
Caraș-Severin	Ioan Borca, Str. Lenin Nr.15, apt. 21, 1700 Reșița
Calarași	Aurel Grigorescu, Str. Gheorghiu-Dej, bl.7, apt.57, 8500 Călărași
Cluj	P.O. Box 79, 3400 Cluj-Napoca
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Covasna	Petre Oprea, Str. Kriza János Nr.7, 4000 Sf. Gheorghe
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Giurgiu	P.O. Box 14, 8375 Giurgiu
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Ialomița	P.O. Box 48, 8400 Slobozia
Iași	P.O. Box 48, 6600 Iași
Maramureș	Ioan Chioran, Str. Secerei 8/4, 4800 Bala Mare
Mehedinți	Epure Bencea, Str. Tiparescu Nr. 58, bl.V.6, apt.14, 1500 Drobeta-Tr. Sever
Mureș	P.O. Box 145, 4300 Tg. Mureș
Neamț	P.O. Box 100, 5600 Piatra-Neamț
Olt	Virgil Sălcianu, Str. Unirii Nr.3A, bl.G.A.27, apt.11, 0500 Slatina
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Timiș	P.O. Box 204, 1900 Timișoara
Tulcea	Nicolae Georgescu, Str. 23 August Nr.148, 8800 Tulcea
Vaslui	P.O. Box 24, 6500 Vaslui
Vilcea	Ioan Șahinian, Str. Olănești Nr.10, sc.B, apt.8, 1000 Rm. Vilcea
Vrancea	P.O. Box 101, 5300 Focșani.

REVIEW:

ROMANIAN POSTAL RECEIPTS, 1887 to 1905.

Compiled by DON HELLER from official sources.

206 W. Fairmount Ave. State College, PA 16801

Published in April 1982, large format (8½" x 11"), 72 pages, printed on one side. It can be ordered directly from Don Heller, the price is $7.50 postpaid.

As is known, the price of a stamp, a postcard or a cover is often determined by the scarcity of the postmark (or postmarks) found on it. However, the rarity of a postmark is difficult to establish since there are often no official records of its introduction, use or destruction. Postal receipt records, however, provide an indirect measure of rarity. For example, for the fiscal year 1887-88, the post office of BACAU shows a total of 41,914.50 lei postal receipts, while the post office of BAIA-DE-ARAMA shows a total of 511.85 lei. Thus we can safely presume that the Bacau post office was about 81 times more active than the Baia-de-Arama post office, therefore a stamp, a postcard or a cover handled by the Baia-de-Arama post office will command a substantial premium over a like item, in similar condition, handled by the Bacau post office.

The receipt data is taken from two report of the Romanian P.T.T., which may be found in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

This book should be very useful for researchers, collectors and dealers alike.

R. Phil. Stud., Ny, 1980, IV, m 1

Originals and Counterfeits
of the ROYAL ROMANIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY JUBILEE Issue
By George Pataki

On June 15, 1925, the Royal Romanian Geographical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary. For this occasion, the issuance of a set of five semi-postal stamps was approved, in order to collect funds for the society's building. Because of disagreements, the set (Scott #B21-B25) was not issued until March 15, 1927. It was valid for postage only until April 14, 1927, thus only one month. Octav Rogalschi designed the series and Marvan produced the cliches. Printed by the typographic process, 70,000 complete sets were issued.

The stamps have the following values and illustrations: 1+9 Lei - map of Romania; 2+8 Lei - Stephen the Great; 3+7 Lei - Michael the Brave; 5+5 Lei - Kings Carol I and Ferdinand and 6+4 Lei - reconstructed model of the Adam Clisi monument. The 10 Lei; the first indicates the franking value, the second number is the surtax which was donated to the society's building fund.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, by Kiriac Dragomir and Aurel Surpateanu, states that imperforate proofs were produced in strips of five stamps, printed in black on white, shiny paper.

GENERAL DIFFFERENCES

BETWEEN	ORIGINALS	COUNTERFEITS
Design is	accurately drawn	rough imitation
Perforation is	13½	other than as the original
Frame (exept 5+5 Lei) has	curved or angular ornaments	straight lines
+ sign is	well shaped cross	distorted, almost rhomboid
Height is	25 mm	24¾ mm
Width is	various	¼ mm narrower
Vertical shading lines are	thin, regular	thicker, irregular

PARTICULAR DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN	ORIGINALS	COUNTERFEITS
	1+9 Lei, light violet	
Perforation is	13½	13:14 or imperforate
Size is	19½ x 25 mm.	19¼ x 24¾ mm
Ornaments on center of bottom frame	exist	are missing
I in JUBILEUL has	dot above vertical line	dot and line joined
G in REGALA is	split on the top	normal
	2+8 Lei, green blue	
Perforation is	13½	14½:13¾ or imperforate
Size is	17¼ x 25 mm	17 x 24¾ mm
LEI	is well drawn	has distorted letters
I in JUBILEUL has	dot above vertical line	dot and line joined
P in POSTA shows	distinct loop	filled in loop
Pearls on the crown	exist	are missing
	3+7 Lei, red carmine	
Perforation is	13½	14½:13½ or imperforate
Size is	20½ x 25 mm	20¼ x 24¾ mm
Frame is	accurately drawn	roughly drawn
Shading lines under and between *MA* in ROMANIA are	short but exist	missing
B in JUBILEUL, *P* in POSTA and all *R's* have	distinct upper loops	filled in loops
Number of pearls above fur cap is	9	8
	5+5 Lei, deep blue	
Perforation is	13½	13:13 or imperforate
Size is	18 x 25 mm	17¾ x 24¾ mm
Crown, coat-of-arms, effigies are	accurately drawn	roughly drawn
Letters in inscription are	accurately drawn	roughly drawn
	6+4 Lei, olive green	
Perforation is	13½	13:14 or imperforate
Size is	19 x 25 mm	18¾ x 24¾ mm
Frame ornament is	bent at right angles	rounded
P in POSTA has	distinct loop	filled in loop
Numeral *6* has	open loop	closed loop
Shading lines in 2nd *A* of *ROMANIA*	exist	are missing

Orginal

Counterfeit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

COUNTERFEIT

COUNTERFEIT

COUNTERFEIT

A "VULTURE" Issue Collective Proof

By David Gijiriguian, New York, N.Y.

We illustrate below an item not recorded in Edouard Cohen's book: *Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbre-Posts de Roumanie,* Lisbon, 1945. For the 1885-1889 *Vulture* issue, Cohen mentions the existence of the following proofs:

a) Fig. 22 (pp. 33-34) consisting of the 1½ Banu, 3, 5 and 10 Bani values, all in one horizontal row and printed on cream paper.

b) Fig. 23 (p. 34) comprising 6 of the 1½ Banu stamps in 2 horizontal rows of 3 each, printed in blue or brown on thick cream paper.

c) Fig. 24 (p. 34) made up of 8 stamps in 2 horizontal rows of 4, with 1½, 3, 5 and 10 Bani on the upper row, and 25, 50 Bani, 1 Leu and 15 Bani on the lower row.

d) P. 35, composed of 6 stamps in 2 rows: three 1½ Banu stamps on the upper row and three 3 Bani stamps on the lower row. These proofs are printed in various colors on thick beige paper.

The collective proof which we show contains 7 stamps in a single horizontal row with 1½ Banu, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 Bani values. They are in black, on thick, unwatermarked paper which is light tan (beige) on the front, and cream on the back. The sheet measures 232 x 97 mm. while the size of each stamp is 19 x 23 mm. with 4-4.5 mm. spacing between stamps. Thus, the row's overall length totals about 156 mm. The first and the fifth position (1½ and 15 Bani) are raised approximately 0.5 mm. when compared to their neighbors.

The fourth position (10 Bani) shows the same flaw described in the 1974 Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue as no. 73.2 (p. 145) - the fourth circle of the left side pearls (under POSTA) has only the lower ornament inside while the upper semicircular ornament is missing.

We believe that the time has come to publish a new, comprehensive book on Romanian plate and die proofs. Cohen's work is now about 35 years old and from a study of material offered at auctions the last few years, it is easily comprehended that material unknown to Cohen which has shown up should be recorded. As this can no longer be a one-man labor (as was brilliantly done by Cohen), we propose that the Association of Romanian Philatelists (A.F.R. in Bucharest, Romania) start a drive to locate and then describe in one book all known material.

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EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 34-24 76th STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11372

THE FORGERY OF THE 20 LEI BESSARABIA STAMP

by Gustav Noska, str. Lamiitei No. 48, 75278 Bucharest, Romania.

The original set of seven stamps was issued on April 30, 1928, on the 10th anniversary of the annexation of Bessarabia. This is one of the few cases where a single stamp (Scott #335) of a Romanian issue was forged, probably to defraud the Romanian posts.

The major distinguishing characteristics of the original and the forgeries were as follows:

1. The original stamp was printed with a cliche made by photogravure while the forgery was made by zincography, a process that uses engraved zinc printing plates.

2. The original was printed on a white and smooth paper while the forgery was printed on a thin, porous and yellowish paper.

3. The original is violet-black and perforated 13½. The forgery is grey-brown and perforated 13 x 13½. The size and the watermark (horizonal wavy lines) are the same.

4. The forgery's design is coarser than that of the original, and the differences can be seen with the unaided eye. The biggest difference is in the background which, on the original, is uniform with dots showing only under a strong magnifier. On the forgery, the background is made up of well-distinguishable dots, which is a characteristic of the zinc printing plates.

5. The frame with the national motif, on the original, is a distinct design, with well-defined straight lines and perfect corners while the frame on the forgery seems to be made up of some circles without corners.

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c/o Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger St.,
Somerset, N.J. 08873.

6. The letters of the word ROMANIA on the original are well formed with the corners and lines clearly defined while on the forgery, the letters are thicker and less precise, and the corners are rounded.

7. On the forgery, the two numerals "8" look like the letter "B" with the left side straight, the "2"s are flattened on the top, and the "9" in 1918 is flat at the bottom.

8. The letters of the words UNIREA BASARABIEI and CETATEA HOTINULUI, on the original are well formed while on the forgery, they are irregular and almost touching each other. Above and below these inscriptions, on the forgery there are no background dots, only white spaces.

9. The rowboat in the front of the fortress which is not very clear on the original, is unclear on the forgery and it looks bigger than on the original.

10. The shadow cast on the water by the fortress is more intense on the original than on the forgery. There are also other differences on the design of the fortress and of the landscape.

This, it should be noted, is the only known forgery of this stamp and, except for skilled experts, can generally be detected only by comparison with an original.

EARLY ROMANIAN TELEGRAM FORMS

by Dumitru Passalega, Alleea Branscusi, bl. A2, Sc. 2, et. II, apt. 9, 1100 Craiova, Romania.

Telegram forms were introduced in Romania at the turn of the century. They can be considered to be among the most interesting of the postal stationeries in terms of their conception, their evolution, their variety, their scarcity and the fine execution of the printed stamp. Because they have not been extensively studied, most catalogue listings of these forms are either erroneous, incomplete or both.

Telegram forms were introduced for the telegraph service under the telegraph-post law legislated by decree No. 861 of February 25, 1900. The last paragraph of art. 20 specified: *"The postal and telegraph administration is authorized to issue telegram forms in various denominations, as necessary".*

The general director of posts and telegraph, anticipating the new law, communicated the following, by circular No. 73, 123 of December 28, 1899, to the masters of the telegraph-post offices: *"To avoid the delays at the receiving windows, especially during rush hours, the department has introduced simple telegram forms, of 10 and 14 words, which will put into use on January 1"*

On January 4, 1900, the general director sent to the telegraph-post offices with circular No. 757 posters which were *"to be displayed in the office hall or in the most frequented places of the locality"*, which announced the

Original

Forgery

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Postal Tax Stamps for Aviation

George Pataki

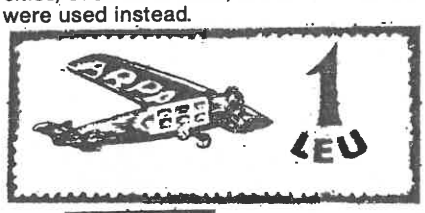
In the time between the world wars, the Romanian posts required the use of various postal tax stamps besides the normal postage stamps. During certain periods, not one, but two different postal taxes were required at the same time on some of the mail.

After "Asistenţa Socială" charity stamps were no longer required (see "Romanian 'Asistenţa Socială' Charity and Postal Tax Due Stamps") in R.P.S., No.4/1981), several sets of postal tax stamps for aviation were issued to be used only on domestic mail. The funds collected were intended to develop the Romanian air force.

We present each issue separately and give their characteristics in a table below. All issues share the common characteristic of being printed by the photogravure method. All are on ordinary white paper (of variable thicknesses), except for the "small A.R.P.A." stamp printed on very thin (pelure) paper. Two of these issues are unwatermarked, the others have watermark type XIII (C.C.), also known as "Crowns and monograms", with the exception of the "Taxa de Plată" (Postage due) stamps which have watermark type XII (P.T.T.). The most common watermark position for the vertical format stamps is vertical, while for the horizontal stamps it is horizontal; other positions constitute scarce varieties.

A.R.P.A.

In 1931, a private society called "Asociaţia Română Pentru Aviaţie (Romanian Association for Aviation) or "A.R.P.A." received permission to collect funds for aviation through the issuance of 2 labels to be used voluntarily, however, the public was often pressured to buy them. These 2 labels have the same vertical design, showing the denomination, "1 LEU", and a plane's silhouette at top and on the bottom a portrait of King Carol II in his Air Force uniform above the initials "A.R.P.A.". The larger label measures 20.5 by 31.5mm., is blue and was to be affixed on various types of mail. The smaller label measures 16.5 by 24 mm., is purple and was for use on train tickets. Printed on white, unwatermarked paper, both are perforated 13½. When the mandatory "Timbrul Aviaţiei" was issued, some cities of Transylvania, located far from Bucharest, did not receive these on time. In such cities, such as Oradea, the A.R.P.A. labels were used instead.



A.R.P.A. labels.

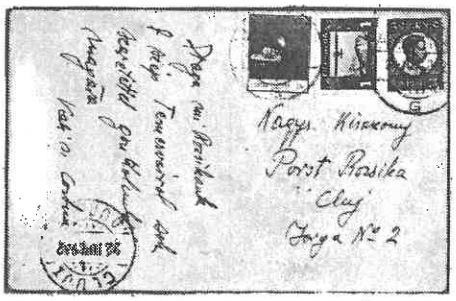
The "Romania Revenues" by Andrew Hall lists another A.R.P.A. label, issued in 1928, black on cream, perf. 11½, showing a monoplane with the letters "A.R.P.A." on the wing and the denomination "1 LEU".

Most catalogues do not list these labels, given that they are not official postal issues.

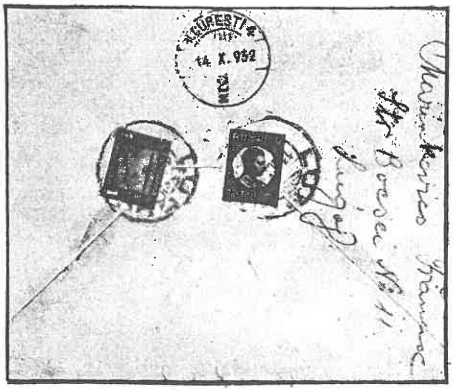
TIMBRUL AVIATIEI (Plane)

On May 15, 1931, a set of postal tax stamps for aviation was issued. The horizontal design's central frame, flanked by 2 eagles, dipicts an airplane flying over mountains towards the viewer. The top reads "ROMANIA" and the bottom "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI" (Aviation Stamp) and the lower left and lower right corners give the denominations. They were designed by A.

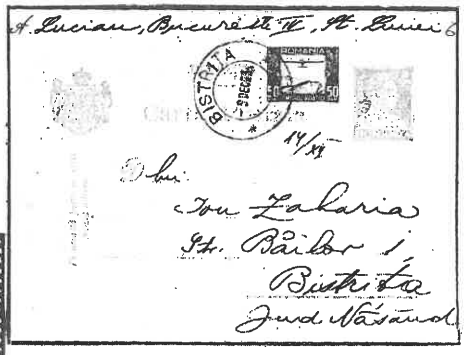
Timbrul Aviatiei (Plane).



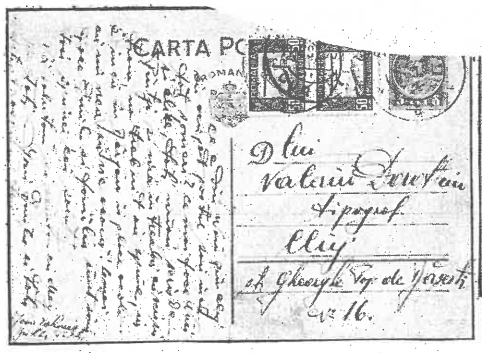
1 Leu Timbrul Aviaţiei on picture postcard.



1 Leu Timbrul Aviaţiei on cover.



50 Bani Timbrul Aviaţiei on postal card H & G #89.



Vertical pair of 50 Bani Timbrul Aviatiei, imperf. between, on postal card H & G #92.

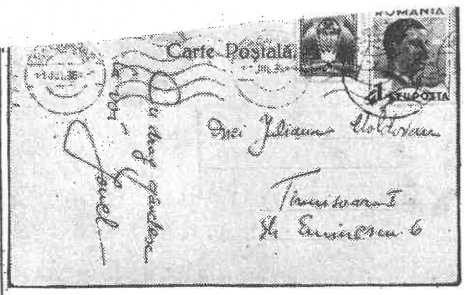
Murnu, whose name appears in the lower right corner. Their use was mandatory on domestic mail. The 50 Bani, greenish blue was intended for postal cards and picture postcards; the 1 Leu, red brown, for letters; the 2 Lei, ultramarine, for telegram and parcel post forms. The military postal cards enjoyed reduced postal rates and were exempt from the use of postal tax stamps. All three stamps were also used on fiscal documents in various combinations dependent on the amount involved in the transaction. Printed on medium thick, white, unwatermarked paper, they are perforated in gauges from 13½ to 14½ and compounds thereof. Imperforates are also known. The 1 Leu's red brown ink will disolve in water. Both the 50 Bani and 1 Leu are known in vertical pairs, imperf. between.

TIMBRUL AVIATIEI (Pilot)

April 1982 marked the issuance of a new "Timbrul Aviatiei" set with a new vertical design. Its center portrays Romeo Popescu, a famous Romanian pilot who died in a plane crash. The top reads "ROMANIA", the bottom "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI", and the denomination is in the bottom's center. These stamps are printed by photogravure on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII, Scott, wmk. #230), in vertical position. The perforation again varies from 13½ to 14½, simple or compound. 200 sets of imperforates were also printed. The 50 Bani, greenish (Prussian) blue, was affixed on printed matter, postal cards and picture postcards; the 1 Leu, red brown, was used on picture postcards and letters, while the 2 Lei, ultramarine, was intended for telegrams and parcel post forms. As is shown in "Varying Postal Rates

Timbrul Aviatiei (Pilot).

C.C. watermark (Type XIII).



50 Bani Timbrul Aviatiei on picture postcard with short message.

50 Bani Timbrul Aviatiei on postal card H & G "95.

1 Leu Timbrul Aviatiei on picture postcard with full-length message.

1 Leu Timbrul Aviatiei on cover.

for Picture Postcards", R.P.S., No. 2/1983, the picture postcards carrying 5 words or less required only 50 Bani postal tax stamps for aviation (besides the regular postage stamps); those with full-length messages needed 1 Leu such stamps. The 2 Lei, ultramarine, was found also on an identification card, issued by the police, together with a fiscal stamp.

FONDUL AVIATIE.

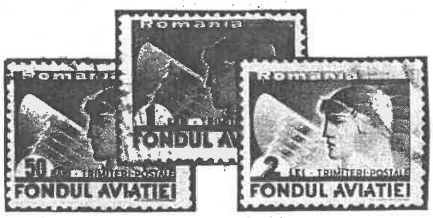
In April 1936, a new set of tax stamps for aviation was issued. Identical in design with the above, they differ only in that "FONDUL AVIATIEI" (Aviation Fund) replaces "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI". They were printed by photogravure, on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in the vertical position. The 5 Lei is also known watermarked in horizontal position. Their perforation is 14½ x 14. The 10 Bani black olive, and the 20 Bani violet, were required on posters and advertising leaflets, the 3 Lei, green and the 5 Lei, red carmine, were affixed on receipts and bills.

Fondul Aviatiei (Pilot).

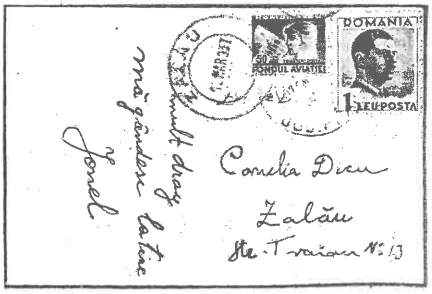
As they were not issued for postal purposes, they are not listed by most catalogues. However, they were tolerated by the posts for use on mail instead of the "Timbrul Aviatiei" stamps when those were not available. This situation lasted until Oct. 1936 when the next set appeared.

FONDUL AVIATIEI (Wing and pilot)

In Oct. 1936, a new set of 3 postal tax stamps for aviation was issued. These are designed by Ştefan Constantinescu whose name is in the lower right corner, and were printed in sheets of 100. Their format is horizontal and they show a stylized wing and the profile of a pilot looking to the viewer's left. Besides the denomination, the inscription reads "ROMANIA/TRIMITERI POSTALE/FONDUL AVIATIEI". "Trimiteri postale" means "postal mailings". The 50 Bani, greenish blue, was used printed matter, postal cards and picture postcards with 5 words or less; the 1 Leu, red brown, was affixed on picture postcards with full-length messages and on envelopes; the 2 Lei, ultramarine, was used on telegrams and parcel post forms.



Fondul Aviatiei (Wing and pilot).



50 Bani Fondul Aviatiei on picture postcard with short message.

1 Leu Fondul Aviației on picture postcard with full-length message.

50 Bani Fondul Aviației on postal card H & G #97.

1 Leu Fondul Aviației on cover.

They were printed by photogravure, on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in horizontal position: both the 50 Bani and 1 Leu stamps are also known with the watermark in vertical position. The perforation is 14 x 14½. The 1 Leu is known in vertical pairs, imperf. between.

FONDUL AVIATIEI (Plane)

In Oct. 1936, another set of tax stamps for aviation with a different new design was also issued. This design, in a horizontal format, portrays a plane flying towards the viewer's left, and besides the denomination, the inscription reads "ROMANIA/ FONDUL AVIATIEI". The 10 Bani, yellow,

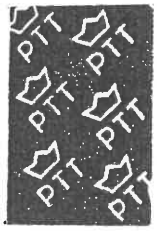
Fondul Aviației (Plane).

was used on posters, the 20 Bani, purple; 50 Bani, green; 1 Leu, brown; and the 2 Lei, blue, were affixed on fiscal documents. In the beginning, when the "Wing and pilot" type were not yet available, these were tolerated by the posts for use on mail. They were printed by photogravure on white paper with "C.C." watermark (type XIII) in horizontal position. The perforation is 14 x 14½. The 50 Bani is known perf. 13½. A similar but smaller, blue "1 LEU" stamp, with "ROMANIA" on the top, is also known.

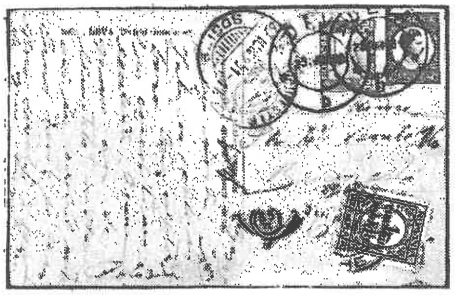
TAXA DE PLATA (Timbrul Aviației)

In 1931, 2 postal tax due stamps for aviation were issued. They were to be affixed on mail found without the required postage tax stamp(s) for aviation. They were applied by the addressee's post office. The fee, twice the missing amount, was paid by the recipient. For this purpose, in 1931, the black 1911 type "TAXA DE PLATA" (Postage Due) 1 and 2 Lei stamps (printed in 1930) were used after being overprinted in red with "TIMBRUL AVIAȚIEI", on 2 lines. They are on white, porous paper, with "P.T.T." watermark (type XII, Scott wmk.) and are perf. 13½.

Taxa de Plata (Timbrul Aviației).



P.T.T. watermark (Type XII).



1 Leu Taxa de Plata (Timbrul Aviației) on picture postcard.

The 1 Leu stamp is known in horizontal pairs, one with, the other without overprint; the overprint horizontally shifted to cover 2 adjacent stamps and in horizontal pairs imperf. between. This value was not issued without the overprint.

The 2 Lei stamp is known with horizontally or vertically shifted overprints straddling 2 stamps.

When some post offices ran out of overprinted postal tax due stamps, such stamps without overprint were used.

Some "Fondul Aviației" values used only for fiscal purposes could have been issued

Fiscal-revenues for aviation fund.

Semipostals with surtax for aviation fund.

later than the rest of the set. Several "Fondul Aviatiei fiscal stamps and fiscal stamps with such overprints were issued from 1937 to 1944 (see "Romania Revenues" by Andrew Hall) but only for fiscal and official documents.

In 1939, the use of the postal tax stamps for aviation was abolished. Beginning in 1940, the postal tax for aviation was included in the price of semipostals, such as Scott #B113-B118, B119-B126 and B138-144A (Gibbons #1438-1443, 1430-1437 and 1470-1483, Michel #625-630, 617-624 and 666-679).

Type	Denom.	Color	Scott	Gibbons	Michel	Wmk.	Perforation	Size mm.
A.R.P.A.	1 L	blue	—	—	—	—	13½	20.5 x 31.5
A.R.P.A.	1 L	purple	—	—	—	—	13½	16.5 x 24
Timbrul Aviației (Plane)	50 B	greenish blue	RA16	T1216	12	—	13½-14½	26.5 x 21
"	1 L	red brown	RA17	T1217	13	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA18	T1218	14	—	"	"
Timbrul Aviatiei (Pilot)	50 B	greenish blue	RA19	T1253	15	XIII	13½-14½	21 x 26.5
"	1 L	red brown	RA20	T1254	16	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA21	T1255	17	"	"	"
Fondul Aviației (Pilot)	10 B	black olive	—	—	18	XIII	14½ x 14	21 x 26.5
"	20 B	violet	—	—	19	"	"	"
"	3 L	yellowish green	—	—	Ia	"	"	"
"	5 L	red carmine	—	—	Ib	"	"	"
Fondul Aviației (Wing and pilot)	50 B	greenish blue	RA22	T1340	20	XIII	14 x 14½	26.5 x 21
"	1 L	red brown	RA23	T1341	21	"	"	"
"	2 L	ultramarine	RA24	T1342	22	"	"	"
Fondul Aviatiei (Plane)	10 B	orange	—	—	23	XIII	14 x 14½	26.5 x 21
"	20 B	purple	—	—	24	"	"	"
"	50 B	rose red	—	—	25	"	"	"
"	1 L	brown	—	—	—	"	"	"
"	2 L	blue	—	—	—	"	"	"
"	1 L	blue	—	—	—	XIII	13½ x 14	21.5 x 14.5
Taxa de Plată (Timbrul Aviației)	1 L	black & red ovpt.	RAJ20	TD1219	21	XII	13½	22.5-23 x 28.5
"	2 L	"	RAJ21	TD1220	22	"	"	"

The Romanian Coachmen of 1840.

George Pataki

A French envoy, who in 1840 travelled the Romanian Pricipalities, recorded his impressions in "Album Moldo-Valaque", published in 1848. In describing the many interesting sites and fascinating people encountered, he claimed that throughout his travels he had never ever met drivers and coachmen such as those of Moldavia and Walachia. According to him, even the most indifferent or most anxious and grumbling traveler must be cheered up upon witnessing Moldo-Walachian coachmen's ability, liveliness, philosophy, quickness and cheerfulness. The French adds that their swearing, however, makes the surroundings tremble.

He describes an incident when a Romanian archbishop was traveling by stagecoach. On one bad road, the carriage got stuck in a mud hole. The teamsters were yelling and whipping the horses. However, out of respect for the archbishop, they did not fill their speech with the usual curses. They informed the archbishop's companions that they could not pull the coach out. After these travelers suggested going a few kilometers to get extra horses, the coachmen held a conferernce. After short deliberations, the drivers approached the stage's window. Admitting to the archbishop their embarassment and affirming their scruples, they said that if only permitted to swear, they could free the vehicle without the aid of other horses. The archbishop thereupon gave them dispensation, being careful to plug up his ears. The horses, hearing the language to which they were accustomed to in difficult situations, succeeded in their renewed efforts and the journey was able to continue.

The Moldo-Walachian coachmen who carried mail and packages besides passengers are forerunners of today's Romanian postal employees. We understand that nowadays mail handlers do not swear or curse anymore. Perhaps it is not just a coincidence that they have lost some abilities and quickness. We often find mail sent over a hundred years ago from Romania to the United States to have been delivered in about 2 weeks. Today, even with air mail and all the advantages of modern postal facilities, it takes about 3 weeks.

I wouldn't mind if the Romanian postal employees would swear again. Even if delicate ears will have to be shielded, this should be accepted if it would move the mails fast again.

"Postal Relay Station" by D.A.M. Raffet.

R. Phil. Stud., 1978, II, m.3.

Perforation varieties of the Michael (1928-30) and Carol (1930-32) issues,

by DON HELLER, 206 West Fairmount Ave, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801.

Modern Romanian stamps generally do not present many varieties, but an interesting exception is the series of small format, large volume issues of 1928 - 1947. These include the Michael and Carol portrait issues of 1928 - 32, the official stamps of 1929 - 30, the postage dues of 1932 - 38, the aviation tax stamps of 1931 - 36, and the Michael portrait issues of 1940 - 47. All occur with a complex range of perforations, some of which are described in Catalogul Marcilor Postale Romanesti (CMPR).

In this article we summarize the results of studying an accumulation of about 3800 stamps (mostly used singles) from the 1928 - 1932 portrait issues. This study was prompted by their incomplete catalog listing and our own attempt to mount a specialized collection. The particular stamps discussed here are Scott 320-328, 343-345, 353-368A, 369-379 and 405-414 (CMPR 423-433, 450-467, 471-481 and 521-530). Our observations should also apply to the other issues mentioned above, but we have not had sufficient material for extensive study. Moreover, we have not studied sheets or large multiples of the 1928 - 32 issues since they were not obtainable. This has been a serious hindrance and leaves many questions unanswered. The reader may judge from the numbers examined as to the reliability of our estimates and areas which need further investigation.

Nine different perforation types are involved with the 1928-32 issues, though not all exist on every value. CMPR uses the symbols A, K, L, N, P and R to denote the types, but we shall adopt a modified notation that conveys more useful information. (See the following table.)

Two basic methods of perforation, line and comb, form the types most frequently encountered. The hybrid perforations, comb on three sides and line on the fourth side, are much less common but not so uncommon that they cannot be found in a small accumulation. Unusual varieties (imperf vertically, imperf horizontally, imperf at bottom, double vertical perfs) exist on some stamps; for details see CMPR. We shall not deal with the imperforated Carol issues of 1930.

Perforation Types for the 1928 - 1932 Portrait Issues

One figure - same gauge all around. Two figures - top and bottom x left and right. Four figures - top x right x bottom x left.

Symbol	Style	Standard Gauge	Instanta Gauge
A	line	13½	13.4
K	comb	13½ x 14	13.4 x 13.8
K1 - K4	hybrid of K (3 sides) and A (1 side)		
K1 (A on top)		indistinquishable from K	
K2 (A on right)		13½ x 13½ x 13½ x 14	13.4 x 13.4 x 13.4 x 13.8
K3 (A on bottom)		probably does not exist	
K4 (A on left)		13½ x 14 x 13½ x 13½	13.4 x 13.8 x 13.4 x 13.4
L	line	14½ x 13½	14.35 x 13.4
N	comb	14½ x 14	14.35 x 13.95
Q1 - Q4	hybrid of N (3 sides) and A (1 side)		
Q1 (A on top)		13½ x 14 x 14½ x 14	13.4 x 13.95 x 14.35 x 13.95
Q2 (A on right)		14½ x 13½ x 14½ x 14	14.35 x 13.4 x 14.35 x 13.95
Q3 (A on bottom)		probably does not exist	
Q4 (A on left)		14½ x 14 x 14½ x 13½	14.35 x 13.95 x 14.35 x 13.4

Catalogul Marcilor Postal Romanesti types P (13½ - 14½ x 14 - 14½) and R (14 - 14½ x 13½ - 14½) are equivalent to the Q types described above.

Michael Portrait Issues, 1928 - 1930.

1928 - 1929, unwatermarked, Scott 320-328, CMPR 423-430, 450.

	25b	*30b*	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*5l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		100	*	30				4	77.5	17%
K	100		100	70	100	100	100	96	21.5	83%
K4				C					1	.2%
#	11	17	120	80	239	237	344	377	316	1741

- number examined; * - exists with overprint
C - listed in CMPR but not found

1928, watermarked, Scott 343-345, CMPR 431-433.

	25b	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		5.5		2%
K	100	94.5	100	98%
#	3	128	197	328

1930, small format, Scott 353-357, CMPR 451-455. *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but *7.5l* perf A exists with overprint. # - 74.

1930, overprinted 8 IUNIE 1930

unwatermarked, Scott 359-362A, CMPR 456//466 *(25, 30, 50b, 5, 10l)*

Individual percentages cannot be given, but the set as a whole is 37.5% perf A, 62.5% perf K. # - 32.

small format, Scott 363-367, CMPR 460//467 *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but one example of *7.5l* found with perf A. # - 66

watermarked, Scott 368-368A, CMPR 457, 464 *(25b, 7.5l)*

Both perf K only. # - 24.

Carol Portrait Issues, 1930 - 1932.

1930, watermarked PTT, Scott 369-379, CMPR 471-481.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*16l*	*20l*	*all values except 16l*		*16l*	
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	73%	(521)	11%	(9)
A	X		B	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	5%	(35)	74%	(59)
L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		16%	(114)	14%	(11)
Q1											X	rare	(1)	rare	(0)
Q2	X		X	X	X	B	X	B	X	X		3%	(21)	1%	(1)
Q4	X			X	X	X	X	B	X	B		3%	(20)	rare	(0)
												100%	(712)	100%	(80)

X - found in my accumulation, number in parentheses.
B - listed in Billig's Philatelic Handbook, vol. 13, but not found.

1932, watermarked monogram, Scott 405-414, CMPR 521-530.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*20l*	*all values*		*both issues, all values*
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	76%	(542)	71.6%
A	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	8%	(55)	9.8%
L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		13%	(94)	14.4%
Q2		X		X	X	X					2%	(12)	2.2%
Q4		X	X	X	X	X			X		1%	(8)	1.8%
											100%	(711)	

Michael Portrait Issues, 1928 - 1930.

1928 - 1929, unwatermarked, Scott 320-328, CMPR 423-430, 450.

	25b	*30b*	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*5l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		100	*	30				4	77.5	17%
K	100		100	70	100	100	100	96	21.5	83%
K4				C					1	.2%
#	11	17	120	80	239	237	344	377	316	1741

\# - number examined; * - exists with overprint
C - listed in CMPR but not found

1928, watermarked, Scott 343-345, CMPR 431-433.

	25b	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		5.5		2%
K	100	94.5	100	98%
#	3	128	197	328

1930, small format, Scott 353-357, CMPR 451-455. *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but *7.5l* perf A exists with overprint. # - 74.

1930, overprinted 8 IUNIE 1930

unwatermarked, Scott 359-362A, CMPR 456//466 *(25, 30, 50b, 5, 10l)*

Individual percentages cannot be given, but the set as a whole is 37.5% perf A, 62.5% perf K. # - 32.

small format, Scott 363-367, CMPR 460//467 *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but one example of *7.5l* found with perf A. # - 66

watermarked, Scott 368-368A, CMPR 457, 464 *(25b, 7.5l)*

Both perf K only. # - 24.

Carol Portrait Issues, 1930 - 1932.

1930, watermarked PTT, Scott 369-379, CMPR 471-481.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*16l*	*20l*	*all values except 16l*		*16l*	
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	73%	(521)	11%	(9)
A	X		B	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	5%	(35)	74%	(59)
L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		16%	(114)	14%	(11)
Q1											X	rare	(1)	rare	(0)
Q2	X		X	X	X	B	X	B	X	X		3%	(21)	1%	(1)
Q4	X			X	X	X	X	B	X	B		3%	(20)	rare	(0)
												100%	(712)	100%	(80)

X - found in my accumulation, number in parentheses.
B - listed in Billig's Philatelic Handbook, vol. 13, but not found.

1932, watermarked monogram, Scott 405-414, CMPR 521-530.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*20l*	*all values*		*both issues, all values*
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	76%	(542)	71.6%
A	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	8%	(55)	9.8%
L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		13%	(94)	14.4%
Q2		X		X	X	X					2%	(12)	2.2%
Q4		X	X	X	X	X			X		1%	(8)	1.8%
											100%	(711)	

Few remarks are necessary about the 1928-30 Michael portraits; the tables summarize the distribution of perforation types. The hybrid type K4 is quite scarce and evidently comes from a sheet in which the left edge remained imperforate after the comb perforation, then was perforated with a line machine. Perforation type K2 should also exist, but has not been reported.

The greater frequency of the hybrid perforations on the Carol issues leads to the question, how were they created? After studying some large multiples of the 1940-47 Michael portraits, the answer is quite clear. For some unknown reason, the N-type comb perforator has the format

In typical use, a comb perforator will perforate threesides of each stamp in one row of the sheet. The fourth side is perforated by another strike of the comb perforator, or, as in the case of type Q1, by a line perforator. The latter is a much rarer occurence; only one example was found.

However, the comb perforator used here left some stamps in each row with only the bottom perforated; the top was perforated in the next comb operation. At this stage in the process we have some stamps completely perforated, two that are3/4 perforated, and some only half perforated. Multiples of later issues show that there were five half perforated stamps per row on the left side of the row, and at least two (probably five) on the right side. The next stage in the process is to finish perforating these stamps, and only a line perforator would be capable of neatly performing this operation. The following is typical of what results in the vertical perforations:

	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	...
type	L	L	L	Q4	N	N	N	N		...
	line perforator				comb perforator					

All horizontal perforations are 14.35. Thus we expect to find an equal number of types Q2 and Q4, a larger number of type L, and a much larger number of type N. Type A results from a sheet entirely perforated with a line machine, which takes more work and would be used less often. This indeed occurs, as the data shows.

The following questions remain, and can best be answered by studying complete sheets. What is the sheet size? Is the distribution of types N, L, Q2 and Q4 consistent? That is, does the comb perforator always leave the same number of partially perforated stamps in each row? Why does the small format Michael issue, also perforated type N, not also occur with types L, Q2 and Q4? What technical justification was there for such an unusual arrangement of two perforating machines?

Newly Discovered Cancels by GRIGORE RACOVICEANU.

I have been carrying out research in marcophily for 50 years, and still with some effort and careful observation I sometimes discover new cancelmarks on common stamps.

For example, SULINA 17 MAI 99, diameter 26 mm, symbol B.129b (by the author's classification system, published in "Postal Cancellations Used in Romania Until 1881", reviewed in No.3/1977) is a unique single circle type cancel, from the time of the monarchy (1881-1947). The lower part of the cancel is still unknown because it does not appear on the studied item.

This cancelmark should not be confused with SULINA 19 APR 85, diameter 25 mm, symbol B53 (with triple dateline), which is among the first ones used after the re-annexation of Dobrugea in 1879. Also, it should not be confused with SULINA 23/1, symbol I19, used by the Austrian posts in 1865-1868. Both B53 and I19 were used during the period of the principali

For the period of the monarchy, I discovered an "occasional cancel", elliptical, 36/21 mm, with the inscription: CUMPARATI CARTI ROMANESTI (translated: Buy Romanian Books) SAPTAMANA CARTII (translated: BOOK WEEK) 12 MAI 934 BUCURESTI. I can not vouch for the given sizes and inscription, since portions of this cancel were outside the stamp on which it was found.

Review: INDRUMATORUL FILATELISTULUI 1978 (The Philatelist's Guidebook 1978), reviewed by MIHAIL POPOVICI, Bucharest, Romania.

Published in Bucharest, 259 pages, 14 articles and studies with 550 illustrations.

The editorial is written by Lucian Belcea and "The revolutionary party of the Romanian working class, a major philatelic theme" is signed by Iosif Micu.

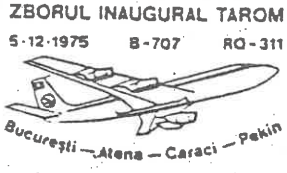
Dumitru C. Biala presents "Pictorial printed stamps on the 1948-1965 Romanian stationeries" previewing the material for a catalogue to be published later.

"Date cancel types used after Jan.1, 1948" is a segment from a future book by Iosif Micu and "Varieties of the adhesive stamps of the republic's coat of arms type" is by Mihai Bauer.

"On the value of the second issue of Moldavia stamps" by Corneliu Spineanu is a study on the scarcity and prices of these stamps; mint, used, on covers, etc.

"Philately and school" by Lucian Belcea argues the use of philately in education. "Romanian stamps and postal stationeries overprinted during the 1952 monetary reform" is signed by Mihail Popovici and "Maximum cards in a philatelic collection" is by Dr. Valeriu S. Neaga, and, "On some perforation errors " is by Dan Mihai Belcea.

In "Aero-philatelic collections" Alex. Bartoc presents a summary of the regulations governing the aero-philatelic exhibitions and the cancels of the 1972-1977 first and special flights.



"Art reproductions on Romanian stamps" is by Gh. A. Bighia and "The memory of the newspaper" is by Andy Constantinescu.

Titus Florin Predescu describes the "Philatelic activity in Bucharest, 1975-1977".

This is the fifth guidebook published in 10 years and its content is valuable both to beginners and advanced philatelists.

Cancels of the 1877 and 1916 military headquarters,

by Grigore RACOVICEANU, Str. Tunarilor No. 6, Bucharest 9, cod. 72121, ROMANIA.

The cancels of the military posts during wars are scrace because during major military operations the gathering of cancelmarks is neglected. We present here the cancels of the Military High Command posts in 1877 and 1916 wars, discovered accidentally, many years after their use.

The postal cancel of the Military Higy Command of the Romanian army in 1877 was described by prof. Ioan Patrascu (Filatelia, No.5/1966) and Dumitru Passalega (Filatelia, Nos.2-3/1968). 90 years after its use. The cancel is of concentric circles type, 23 and 13 mm diameter, with the inscription QUARTIER GEN. POIANA and the only known date on three lines: 6 AUG 77, and a small ornament at the bottom (POIANA is the locality).

I suppose this cancel was used unly for a short period of time, because in October 1877 the Military High Command was moved south of the Danube river, where the most important militay operations were taking place. After the move, this canceller could not be used anymore because the inscription POIANA would not have been appropriate.

In contrast to that, during the 1916-1919 campaign, a canceller to be used in any locality where the High Command had its headquarters, was prepared. Recently I discovered this cancelmark, 62 years after its use, and so far it is unique example.

This cancelmark is on a 1916 5 bani black TIMBRU DE AJUTOR (postal tax) stamp and it was reconstructed as much as it was possible. It is of a single circle type, 28 mm in diameter, with the text: MARELE CARTIER GENERAL, on the second row: OFIC. TEL., in the center on a single line the date: 14 DEC 1916 and two small striped segments of circles as ornaments. A portion at the bottom could not be reconstructed.

This is the only known cancelmark of this type. We bring to the collectors' attention these postal markings used during those wars, because their great majority has been destroyed or damaged and their identification is difficult.

R. Phil. Stud. 1978, II, nr. 3

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Originals and Counterfeits of The "First Moldavian Stamps 75th Anniversary" Issue

George Pataki

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

On Nov. 20, 1932, on the 75th anniversary of the first Moldavian stamps, the EFIRO Philatelic Exhibition opened in Bucharest. For this occasion, a souvenir sheet (Scott #B40) and a set of commemorative stamps (Scott #421-427) were issued. The set of seven stamps was printed in Bucharest at the Stamp Printing Works, on watermarked, white paper. They are imperforate, as were the Moldavian stamps they commemorate. The printing was 200,000 sets.

The watermark is of type XIII, per the classification adopted in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 (Scott Wmk. 230). It was introduced in 1931 and it is known in four positions. On this set the watermark is generally found in position 3 (sideways with top to left - when viewed from the stamps reverse side, with the exception of the 25 Bani and 3 Lei values which sometimes are also found in position 4 (turned to right). Each sheet has 50 stamps; 5 rows, each with 10 stamps, with wide (23 mm.) margins all around.

All values, except the 25 Bani, have been counterfeited.

According to Petre Murea ("Istoricul Timbrelor Postale Romanesti," page 227), the wide margins were used to print those counterfeit stamps which are on genuine watermarked paper.

All the stamps have a coat-of-arms, a postal horn as the symbol of the postal service, the denomination in the horn's loop and the text: "1858 ROMANIA 1933." Besides these general characteristics each stamp has its own design.

25 Bani, black:

This resembles Scott #5, issued in 1858. Rectangular with rounded corners, it shows a bison head with a six-pointed star above, the coat-of-arms of Moldavia, Bessarabia and Bucovina.

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

1 Lei, violet:

Circular in shape, it displays the coat-of-arms of Banat province - a rampant lion over a brick bridge.

2 Lei, green:

This circular stamp displays the coat-of-arms of Dobrudja province - two dolphins.

3 Lei, carmine rose:

Likewise circular, this value features the coat-of-arms of Transylvania - an eagle over seven fortresses.

6 Lei, red brown:

Rectangular with bevelled corners, in its center is what was the coat-of-arms of the kingdom of Romania at that time.

7.50 Lei, light blue:

Another round stamps, this depicts the coat-of-arms of Walachia: an eagle with spread wings.

10 Lei, dark blue:

It is circular and again has the bison head; the emblem of Moldavia, Bessarabia and Bucovina.

The drawings of the six original and six counterfeited stamps of this set (the 25 Bani stamp was not counterfeited) shown here were done by Gustav Noska and published in "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane," Nos. 2, 4-5 and 6 of 1939.

Noska claims that the counterfeiters took sheets of genuine 25 Bani stamp, chemically removed the printing, and then remaining with authentic watermarked paper, proceeded to print higher value counterfeit stamps. Furthermore, he states that counterfeits were also made on unwatermarked paper on which forged watermarks were applied using paraffin. These "watermarks" are simplistic - badly drawn crowns, without the monograms. They are better visible on the backs of the stamps (where they were applied) than on the front and they have the characteristic luster of the paraffin.

Dr. A. Schroeder of Berlin, in "Schach den Falschungen" states that the three most frequently found cancellations on the counterfeits are: that of the EFIRO exhibition, one with "BUCURESTI" and one with mostly illegible text of which only "CURSA," on the bottom, can be made out.

We caution readers that stamps not resembling the counterfeits presented above which also do not match the characteristics of the originals should be considered counterfeits. When more than one counterfeit or forgery has been produced of a certain stamp, describing only one of them could be misleading.

Postal Markings of The Bucharest Gara de Nord, 1873 to 1947

Continued from vol. 4, no. 1, 1980.

Don Heller, 206 W. Fairmont Ave., State College, PA 16801

Rectangular Manual Postmarks

The following miscellaneous items include a postmark of the money order office (54), two registration labels (55, 56), and the AMB and TREN markings of the railway ambulant office (57, 58).

54. BUC.-GARA-NORD/MANDATE, rectangle 27 mm horizontal, 24½ mm vertical, date in center, letters 3¼ mm. Only date seen in 12 January 1920, in blue (coll. Bell).

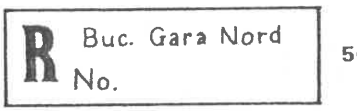
55. R/BUCURESTI GARA DE NORD/NO., rectangle 53 mm horizontal, 14 mm vertical. Only examples seen is on a cover dated May 1915 (coll. Bell).

56. (paper label) **R/BUC. GARA NORD/No.,** R in red, remainder in black, white paper, rectangle 45 mm horizontal, 14 mm vertical. Only example seen is on a cover dated 25 April 1916.

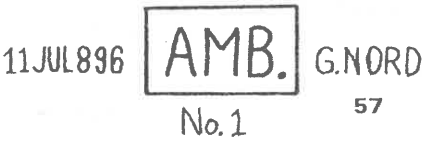
An earlier usage of registration labels is indicated by an "1895 cover to Munich, stamps tied by BUCURESCI/GARA DE NORD cds, accompanied by Registration ettiquete of the railway station" (Rigby Postal History Auctions, 18 January 1972, lot 1102). I have not seen this item.

54

55



56



57

57. AMB. G. NORD. Two types have been seen (both coll. Bell):

a) rectangle 12mm vertical, G. NORD letters 3 mm, a partial strike on Scott 126, issue of 1893;

b) rectangle 13 mm vertical, G. NORD letters 4 mm, a partial strike on Scott 155, issue of July 1900.

The item described as "1896-97 5 b., 10 b. postal cards, one with 11 JUL 96/AMB/G. NORD/No. 1 two line strike, used as cancellation" (Rigby Postal History Auctions, 4 April 1964, lot 739) was used in conjunction with similar marks from other railway stations to create the illustration shown here. The illustration is only suggestive, not definitive, as I have not seen a complete strike from Gara de Nord.

58. Not seen, but items described as "1904-06 cards, stamps tied by straight line date/**TREN/NORD** railway date stamp" were in Rigby Postal History Auctions, 9 June 1971, lot 1183. The text should probably read **TREN/G. NORD,** and the full mark should be similar to type 57.

R. Phil. Stud., 1977, I, nr. 2,

Postal cards NOT listed or NOT illustrated in the ROMANIAN CATALOGUE

by GEORGE PATAKI

The Romanian catalogue (reviewed in our previous issue) is an excellent reference work, but its chapter II about postal stationeries, is far from complete. In 35 pages it was not possible to cover all the postal cards, money orders, envelopes, etc. issued in more than 100 years. We will present a few items not listed in the Romanian catalogue, or listed but not illustrated and fully described. Due to shortage of space we will show only the upper part of the card.

Fig. 1

In the category of "not listed at all", Fig.1 shows a postal card issued in 1941 (Higgins & Gage #102) when the provinces of Bucovina and Bessarabia were reunited with Romania. This card (147x104 mm, blue on yellowish paper) has a printed stamp similar to Scott #528. It was used not only in the regained territory (lost again after WW II) but across the country.

Fig. 2

Another postal card (Fig.2) was issued during WW II in 1943 (H & G #107), when the Romanian army occupied temporarily Transdniestria, a part of the Soviet Union, located East of the river Dniester. This card (147x104 mm, brown on yellowish paper) exhibits a printed stamp similar to Scott #517. This stamp, along with a couple of other sets issued during WW II, are neither listed nor iluustrated in the Romanian catalogue.

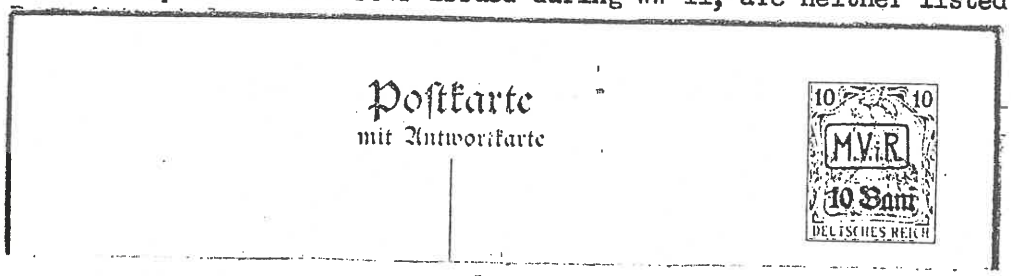


Fig. 3

One group of postal cards not listed are the ones used in 1917-18 when the German army occupied part of Romania. The German stamps with the same overprints as on the printed stamps of these cards, are listed in chapter V under "Foreign posts in Romania". These cards (140x90 mm) are carmine on cream paper with the printed stamp overprinted in black. Fig.3 shows a double card with a "Response card" attached to it; the postally used cards are separated. The printed stamp is like Scott 3N1, but the value is 10 pf overprinted with 10 bani.

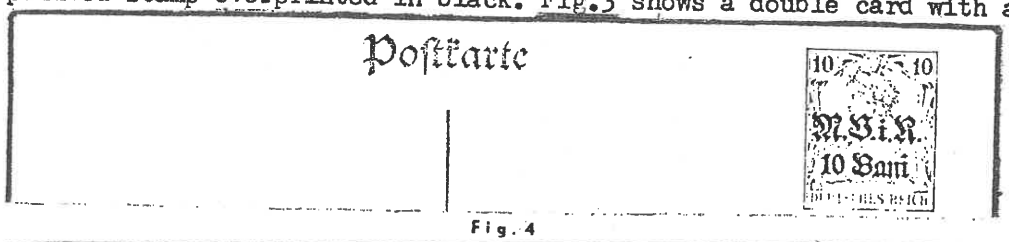


Fig. 4

Fig.4 shows a single card with the printed stamp similar to Scott #3N4.

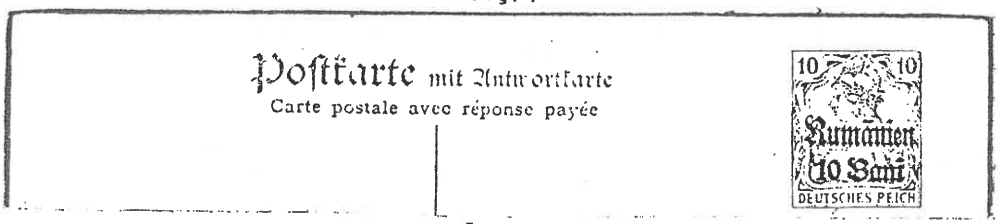


Fig. 5

Fig.5 shows a double card with a prepaid "Response card" attached to it. Most of the used cards are separated. The 2 cards have no perforation between the

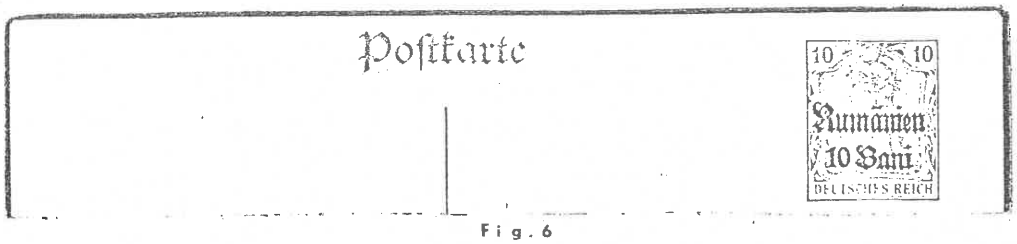


Fig. 6

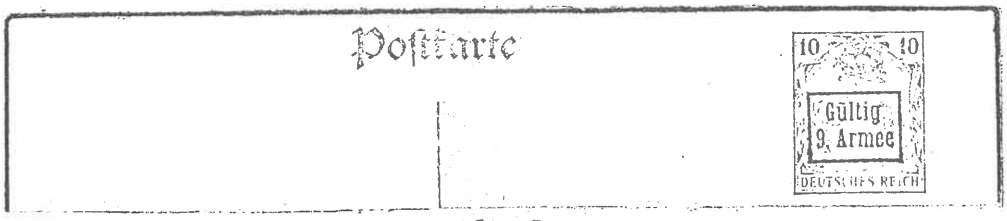


Fig. 7

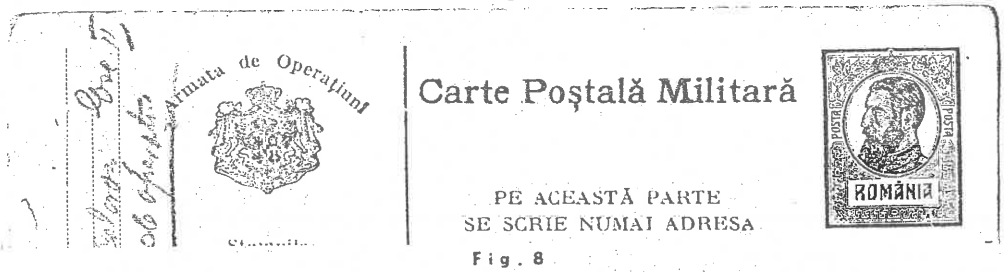


Fig. 8

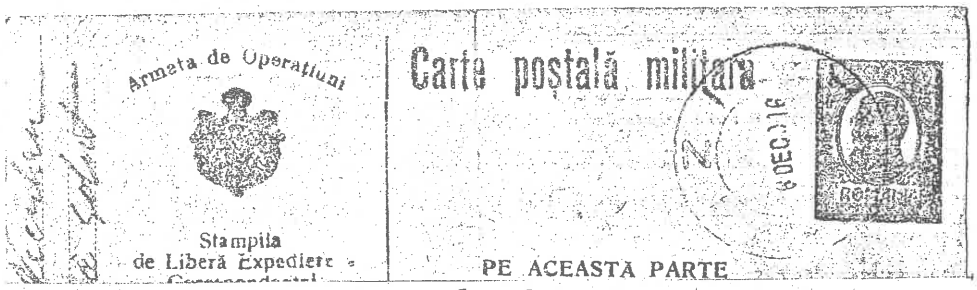


Fig. 9

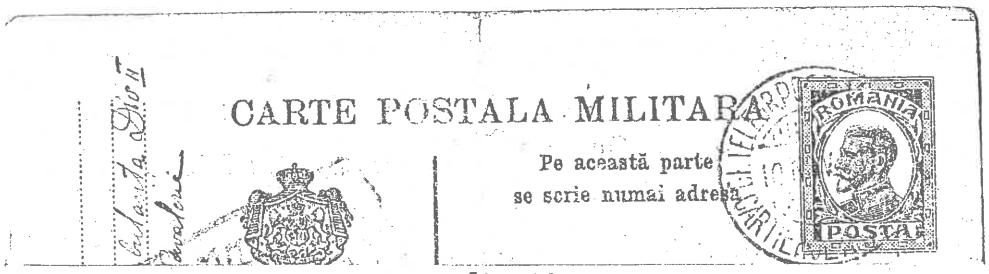


Fig. 10

Fig. 11

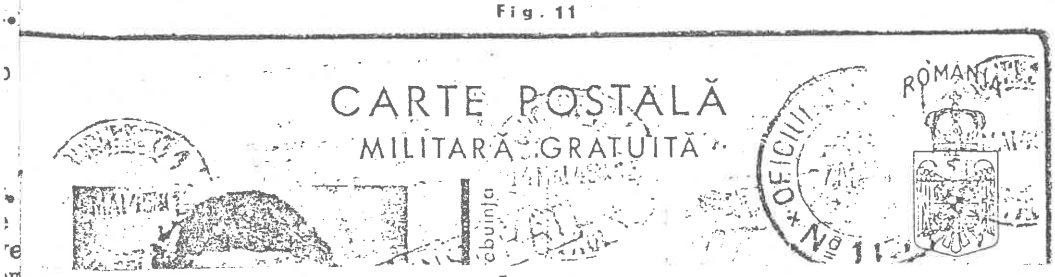


Fig. 12

Fig.6 is a single card with the same printed stamp as on the previous card (Scott #3N9).

Fig.7 is a single card with a printed stamp like Scott #3N13.

All these cards are listed by Higgins & Gage under Germany. When postally used, these cards have in addition to the postal cancellations, interesting war censorship markings.

Another group of "not listed at all" consists of the free postal cards used by lower grade military personnel, mostly during war periods.

These cards are not listed neither by Higgins & Gage nor by the Romanian catalogue, despite the fact that they are official government issues.

Fig.8 shows a free postal card from WW I (140x90 mm, black on white paper). The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Carol I and there is no value on the stamp.

Fig.9 shows a variety of the previous card (137x90mm, black on thin white paper) with a very poor printing.

Fig.10 shows a free postal card (137x91 mm, black on white paper) used during and after WW I. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Ferdinand (nephew of the previous king) and there is no value on the stamp.

Fig.11 presents a free postal card used during WW I (147x106 mm, blue on cream paper with a light blue-turquoise 20x147 mm diagonal bar). The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Michael I, the grandson of King Ferdinand and the son of King Carol II.

Fig.12 shows another free postal card used during and after WW II (147x97 mm, brown on white paper) with a 47x6[illegible] mm photograph of King Michael, the last of Romanian monarchs.

While Higgins & Gage list the paid military postal cards, the Romanian catalogue does

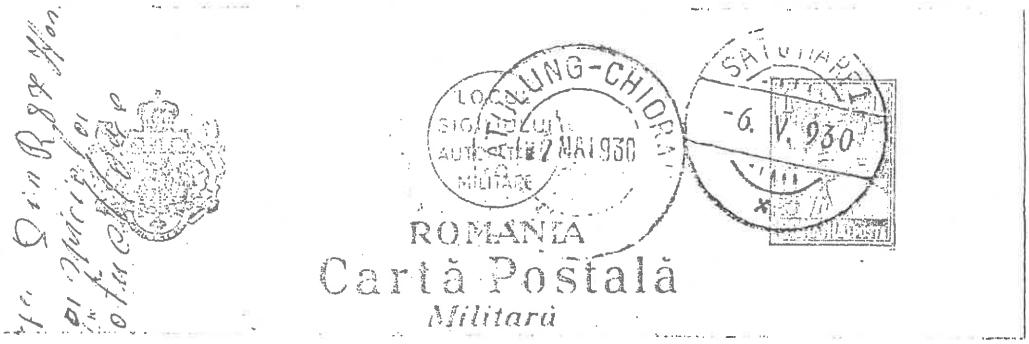


Fig. 13

Fig. 14

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

not list them at all.

These cards were cheaper (for example 1 leu) than the regular cards (2 lei) used in the same period, but they could be used only by the military personnel.

Here are some items of this group:

Fig.13 (150x117 mm, pale violet on cream paper) is Higgins & Gage #79. The printed stamp looks like Scott # 323 and 353. It was issued in 1928, a year after the 6 years old Michael became king.

Fig.14 (147x115 mm, lilac on white paper) is H & G #91. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Carol II the son of King Ferdinand and the father of King Michael.

Fig.15 (149x105 mm, lilac on yellowish paper) is H & G #100. This card was issued in 1941, a year after Michael became king again. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Michael I in military uniform.

Fig.16 (149x105 mm, lilac on cream paper) is H & G #109. The effigy is that of King Michael I and because of the inflation the new value is was increased to 3 lei.

Fig.17 (147x105 mm) is a semi-illustrated postal card (H & G # 82) with a printed stamp like Scott #326 but with the value of 6 lei instead of 5 lei. There are 25 similar

Fig.18

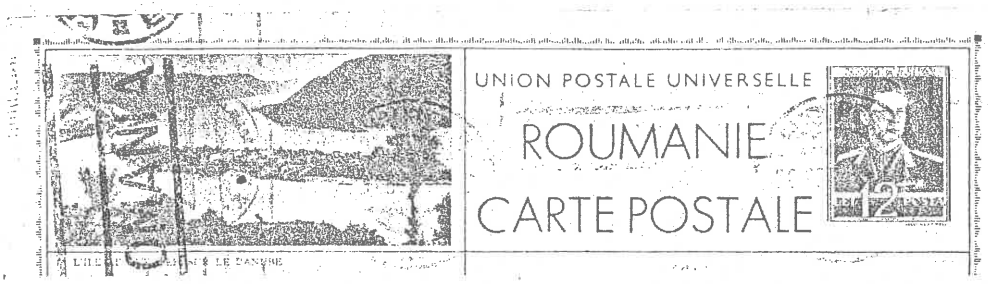


Fig. 19

Fig. 20

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

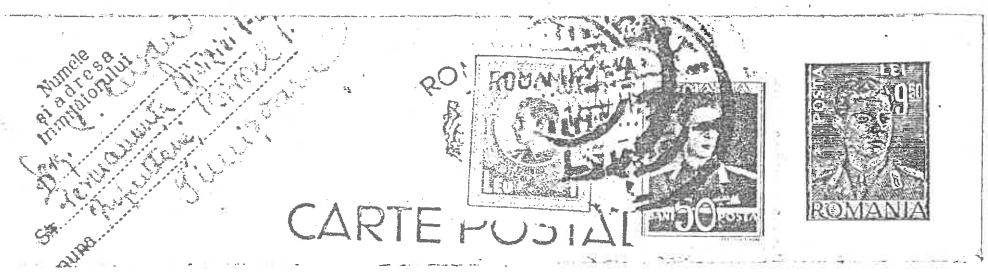


Fig. 23

cards with 25 diferent views from Romania.

Fig.18 (148x105 mm, red-brown on white to cream paper) is an international card (H & G #81) with the printed stamp like Scott #320 but in red-brown instead of black and with 6 lei instead of 25 bani.

Fig.19 (149x106 mm, dark red on yelowish paper) is a semi-illustrated postal card (H & G #105) with the printed stamp like Scott #511 or #548 but in dark red instead of blue. There are 14 similar cards with 14 different views.

Fig.20 (147x105 mm, carmine on yellowish paper) is a double card with a pre-paid answer card attached to it (H&G #108). The printed stamp on both cards have the value of 9 lei overprinted in black for 4.50 lei.

Fig.21 to Fig.27 are all cards in the same group; listed but not illustrated. They are approximately 147x115 mm in size and the paper varies from white to cream.

Fig.21 (H & G#101) issued in 1941, is a blue card with a value of 4 lei.

Fig.22 (H&G #104) issued in 1942, is a blue card with a value of 5 lei.

Fig.23 (H & G #110) issued in 1943, is also a blue card with a value of 9.50 lei. That time, besides th additional postal stamp (to compensate the rate increases) the use of a postal tax stamp was required.

Fig. 24

Fig. 25

Fig. 26

Fig. 27

Fig.24 (H & G # 112), issued in 1944, is a gray-violet card with a value of 10 lei.

Fig.25 (H & G # 113), issued in 1945, is a gray-blue card with a value of 20 lei.

Fig.26 (H & G # 116), issued in 1947, is a brown-violet card with a value of 140 lei.

Fig.27 (H & G # 118), issued also in 1947, is a brown-violet card but with the highly increased value of 1,000 lei.

On the postal cards of this period, as the inflation progressed, more and more adhesive stamps had to be applied in addition to the constantly increasing values of the printed stamps.

There are more postal cards than we presented here, as well as other items of postal stationeries like money orders, telegrams, etc. not listed or not illustrated in the Romanian catalogue. We hope that the next edition of the otherwise excellent catalogue, will list and fully describe everything ever issued by the Romanian postal authorities.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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Types? Forgeries? Cancellations?
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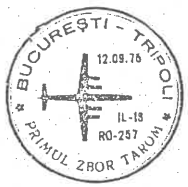
Postal history, Romanian involvement in WW II: Eastern front and Western front.
Postcards, covers, cancels, censor markings.
George Pataki, 34-24 76th Street, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

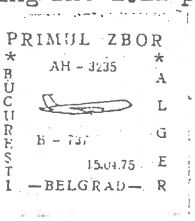
AERO - PHILATELY: Cancellations of 1975 by ALEXANDRU BARTOC

From FILATELIA No. 5/1976

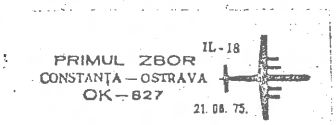
TAROM, the Romanian airline and other airlines landing in Romania inaugurated in 1975 new air routes, and introduced new types of airplanes, more modern, faster and larger.

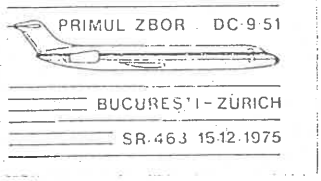
On July 3, 1975, TAROM opened the air route Bucharest-Damascus-Kuwait (flight #RO253) and on July 16, 1975, the route Bucharest-Amman (flight #RO-255) using BAC-1.11 planes.





Sept.12, 1975, was the day of the first flight on the Bucharest-Tripoli route (flight # RO-257). On Dec.5, 1975, the longest air-route in the Romanian aviation history was inaugurated: Bucharest-Athens-Karachi-Peking (flight #RO-311), more than 11,000 km, with Boeing 707's.





Aeroflot introduced on April 7, 1975, a new type of plane, TU-154 on the Moscow-Bucharest-Moscow route (flight #SU-152) and Air-Algerie opened on April 15, 1975, the Algiers-Belgrade-Bucharest route with Boeing 737's (flight #AH-3235).

To satisfy the growing interest in visiting the Romanian seaside, Lot, the Polish company inaugurated on May 26, 1975, the route Cracow-Constanta (flight #LO-212) with IL-18 planes. On June 21, 1975, the Czechoslovak airline CSA opened the Constanta-Ostrava line (flight #OK-827).

On Dec.15, 1975, Swissair introduced the Douglas 9-51 planes on an inaugural flight (#SR-463) on Zurich-Bucharest route.

All of these first flights were celebrated by using aero-philatelic cancels made by the Bucharest chapter of the Romanian Philatelic Association. The cancels show: the flight route, the date of the first flight, the type of plane and the flight number.

It should be mentioned that for the 40th anniversary of the first flight on the Bucharest-Craiova-Timisoara-Arad route, two special cancels and Air Mail envelopes were prepared. On this occasion, a special flight was organized by TAROM.

The aero-philatelic cancels and the covers mailed by the above mentioned flights, and also the arrival cancels, constitute testimonies and will record for future the aviatic events of our days.

Summary of **filatelia** nr. 2 — 1977 journal of the Romanian Philatelic Association.

New Romanian stamps.
Romanian peasantry - on stamps.
The new "Coat of arms of the counties" set.
A symposium on maximum cards at the "Italia '76" exhibition.
How should a stamp exhibition be visited.
Kaleidoscope: curiosities from the world of stamps.
Philatelic news: stories behind the stamps.
Letters to the editor and the answers.
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Reviewing the foreign philatelic press.
News from various Romanian stamp clubs.
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ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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Romanian Postal Tax Stamps of 1943

By George Pataki

In "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane" (Romanian Philatelic Society Magazine) No. 9-10 of 1943, a notice from the Ministry of Finance informs the public:

"Beginning November 1, 1943, postal tax on items mailed through the postal services will be paid by affixing tax stamps as follows:

"1. A 0.50 Lei tax stamp on postal cards (military postal cards excepted), greeting cards, any kind of printed matter except those distributed without address, school books, scientific and literary books and any other type of printings except newspapers and periodicals.

"2. A 1 Leu tax stamp on ordinary and registered domestic letters, business letters, illustrated postcards and money orders, summonses sent by mail and postal money order cashing services.

"3. A 2 Lei tax stamp on domestic telegrams and domestic telegraphic money orders.

"4. A 4 Lei tax stamp for domestic telegrams with pre-paid replies.

"5. A 5 Lei tax stamp on merchandise arrival notices and on shipping forms covering money or other items sent through the mail.

"It must be emphasized that as the postal rates established in the Journal of the Counsel of Ministers, No. 1171, published in Monitorul Oficial No. 279 of Nov. 27, 1942, already include the postal tax, these new tax stamps do not signal an increase in these rates.

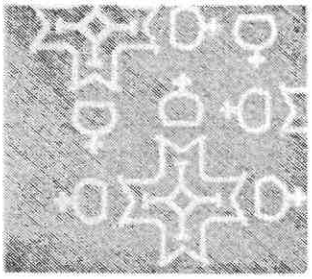
"Therefore, beginning Nov. 1, 1943, to properly make up the entire postal rate, the public will have to affix on any postal matter affected, these new tax stamps which will be issued by that date.

"In case these tax stamps are not affixed on letters or other postal matter, the senders take a chance in not getting these items mailed because according to Article 44 of the Postal Law, postal services which transmit unfranked items may be harshly punished."

The stamps used for this purpose are those listed by Scott as Nos. RA25-31. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 lists them as FP1-7 (page 465). Because they show the portrait of the former King Michael, this catalogue does not illustrate them. The stamps' text reads: "ROMANIA" at the top, "TIMBRU FISCAL POSTAL" under the portrait, the currency and the denomination is expressed in the two lower corners. Under the lower right frame line, in very small letters, is the imprint "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Printing Works).

The set comprises seven values: 50 Bani, orange vermilion; 1 Leu, lilac rose; 2 Lei, brown; 4 Lei, light ultramarine; 5 Lei, lilac; 8 Lei, yellow green; and 10 Lei, black brown. Slight shade variations exist.

Printed on white paper, the stamps are watermarked type M, "of King Michael"



(watermark XIV in the R.P.S.C. of 1974). The design measures 18 x 22 mm, the stamp measures 21 x 26 mm. The perforation, supposed to be 14½ x 14, because of the inaccuracy of the old perforating machines used, actually measures 14.3 x 13.9, with slight variations, with as many as three different perforation measurements on the same stamp.

The Ministry of Finance's notice makes no mention of the 8 and 10 Lei stamps. It seems that seven stamps were issued, instead of five, to conform with a decision made later.

Checking a large collection of postal cards used from 1943 to 1946, we noticed that 90% of these cards don't have these postal tax stamps despite the admonition made by the Ministry of Finance to use them on all postal matter mentioned in their notice. Moreover, those tax stamps that were found on these cards are of 1 and 2 Lei denominations,

rather than the 50 Bani (0.50 Lei) mentioned in the Ministry of Finance's public notice. The reason for this could be either a later change in the rates, or the unavailability of the 50 Bani stamps.

Complete mint sets and postally used 1 and 2 Lei are common; the other values are very scarce used.

In November 1944, the authorities at Tirgu-Mures applied a black overprint, "ERDELY TRANSILVANIA" on 450 of the 1 Leu and 450 of the 2 Lei postal tax stamps, to be used alongside the King Michael definitive issue, bearing the same overprint. Supposedly, 90% of the overprinted tax stamps were used on registered letters and 10% were sold to philatelists.

Genuine postally used stamps are extremely scarce, since most of the "used" stamps, even those on cover, are favor cancelled. Forged overprints are known.

In May 1946 (as was required by the 1939 Universal Postal Convention held in Buenos Aires and by the Geneva Convention), at the request of the Romanian Red Cross, the Postal Administration overprinted remainders of the tax stamps of 1943 for use by prisoners of war on mail to be sent via the Red Cross. In Memo No. 76020/946, the Postal Administration informed all the post offices that P.O.W. mail should be franked with these stamps. The overprint, in red, reads: "SERVICIUL PRIZONIERILOR DE RAZBOI, SCUTIT DE TAXA POSTALA" (Service of the Prisoners of War, Free of Postal Charge), and a red cross covers the denomination.

In November 1946, a new special set of three stamps (with the portrait of the Queen Mother) was issued (120,000 perforate and 30,000 imperforate) for the use by P.O.W.s. All the P.O.W. stamps were as unnecessary as the overprinted tax stamps because by 1946 Romania had virtually no P.O.W.s. The Allied prisoners of war (mostly American fliers shot down over Romania) had been set free and repatriated at the end of the war, and those of the Axis forces had been transferred to the Soviet Union. Overprinted tax stamps, postally used by P.O.W.s are thus practically nonexistent while complete mint sets are quite common. While these stamps overprinted for P.O.W. usage are official government issues, they are not listed by Scott. The specialized Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 lists them as G.3-9 (page 426).

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POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ROMANIA FOR WW II U.S. P.O.W.s

Peter Leibowitz 218-10 36th Avenue, Bayside, N.Y. 11361

The Ploesti oil fields and refineries served as major material sources for the Nazi German war machine. The Allies sent wave after wave of bombers over Romania to destroy these strategic targets. Many of these planes were shot down. Subsequently, their pilots and crews were captured. These Allied troops were then interned at various sites in Romania.

Until now, little detail about the U.S. P.O.W.s' postal arrangements has been written. Norman Gruezner's "Postal History of American P.O.W.s: World War II, Korea, Vietnam" was recently published (1979) as part of the A.P.S. Handbook Series. While this work does touch on our subject, it leaves many questions unanswered.

The author has been fortunate to make contact with Mr. James Miceli, president of the Association of Former Prisoners of War in Romania. Letters from him and telephone conversations with him provided the basis for most information appearing in this article. The association he heads consists of about 1,400 members. Therefore, the number of U.S. P.O.W.'s in Romania must have been larger than the figure Gruenzner gives-995.

The Romanian military ran the camps in which American and other P.O.W.s were held. Temporary camps run by the German military existed on Romania's territory, e.g. the one near Timişoara, for Yugoslav P.O.W.s. Gruenzner enumerates Braşov Military Hospital, Camp Timişul de Jos, Regina Elisabetha Hospital (in Bucharest), and Sinaia Military Hospital. Undoutedly, other facilities existed, as indicated by Miceli's letter of Dec. 8, 1982. Miceli states that he had been held in "Lagărul de Prizonieri No. 13", a schoolhouse situated in Bucharest's center which quartered American officers plus some half-dozen captured Russian enlisted men. The later worked in the kitchens and performed orderly tasks. Miceli knew of two other camps in the area, one for enlisted men being on the outskirts of Bucharest, and another within Bucharest for officers who had been captured earlier.

Rules concerning mail were not put into writing, but were orally communicated to the prisoners. Each facility could thus have promulgated its own regulations covering how many cards, letters and/or parcels a prisoner could send or receive. Judging by the dates showing on three postcards (July 11, 22 and 27, 1944) mailed home by Mr. Miceli, we conclude that at Camp No. 13, one card (or letter) per week was allowed to be sent. However, Mr. Miceli reported that during his stay there, he received no cards or letters from his family, despite the fact that they did write several times. All he ever did receive was one Red Cross parcel, and, at that, only one day before the Russians entered in Bucharest.

Special labels, airletter forms, lettersheets and postcards were to be utilized by both the internees and their families. We illustrate a postcard sent by Lt. James Miceli while being a P.O.W. in Romania to his wife in Jackson Heights, N.Y., USA. It is an unfranked form card, issued by the Romanian Red Cross Society. These were distributed to the prisoners who could send them "Gratuita" (Free of charge). This one, dated July 11, 1944, was dispatched on July 20, 1944. It measures about 105 by 150 mm, and bears a circular, red handstamp of the "Biroul Refugiaţi" (Refugee Office) of the Romanian Red Cross Society, which was incorrect because that office was handling P.O.W.s rather than refugees, as well as the round purple handstamp of the International Red Cross in Geneva, and a small, black, circular handstamp of the numeral "12". A U.S. censorship marking, "11076", applied in purple, is found in the lower left corner, and the date on which the card left Romania is in the upper right corner.

Some similiar P.O.W. cards bear a slightly different "Societatea Naţională de Cruce Roşie a României" marking, with different typeface and without the words "Biroul Refugiaţi".

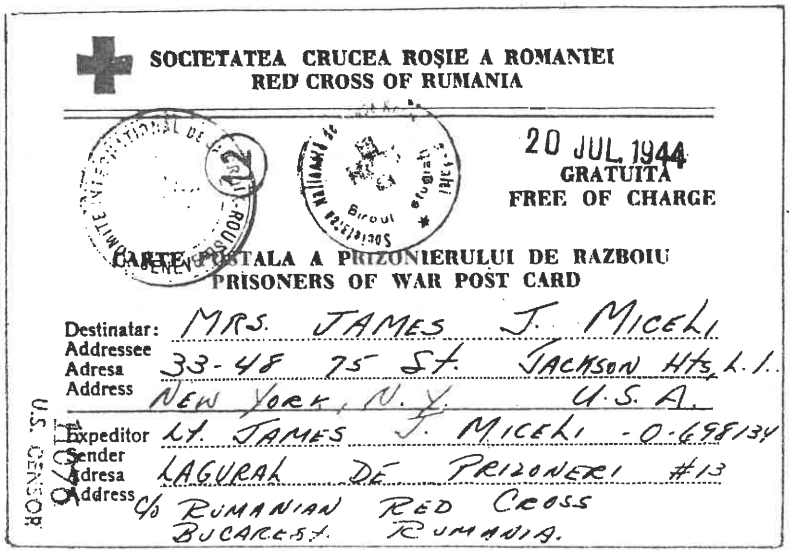
If form cards or lettersheets were not available, use of ordinary paper and envelopes were tolerated. We show such an envelope (cover) dated Aug. 18, 1944. It measures 127 by 177 mm. and bears the same type of Romanian Red Cross marking as above, a small, black circular handstamp of the numeral "19" as the U.S. marking and a censor tape sealing the envelope. There is no International Red Cross handstamp.

No special stamps for the use on P.O.W. mail, showing its free franking privileges, were prepared. As stated in "Romanian Postal Tax Stamps of 1943" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1981) such stamps were created in 1946, when Romania held no more P.O.W.s.

Completed cards and letters were handed by the prisoner to the guards. They then passed on to the office in charge of censorship and mail. After censorship, the national Red Cross Society transmitted all P.O.W. sent correspondence by passing such mail on to the International Red Cross Society (in Geneva, Switzerland), to be forwarded eventually, through regular postal services to the addressees. Mail addressed to the P.O.W.s took the reverse route. Each organization placed an appropriate marking on mail going through its hands, as can be seen on the accompanying illustrations. At least as far as Camp No. 13 is concerned, no provision existed for intra- or inter-compound postal communications, the guards or the doctors providing the only possibility for passing on such messages on an informal basis.

Countries subscribing to the Geneva Convention were required to provide detailed information to the International Red Cross concerning P.O.W. camp locations, the numbers, nationalities, military statuses and ranks of prisoners, etc. While this organization's Geneva archives should be a treasure house of information, Miceli's description, below, of life in Camp No. 13 is more or less typical of that in other such Romanian P.O.W. camps.

Camp No. 13 being basically for officers, unlike others for enlisted men, had no labor details. The prisoners tried to keep in good physical and mental shape.


SOCIETATEA CRUCEA ROŞIE A ROMANIEI
RED CROSS OF RUMANIA

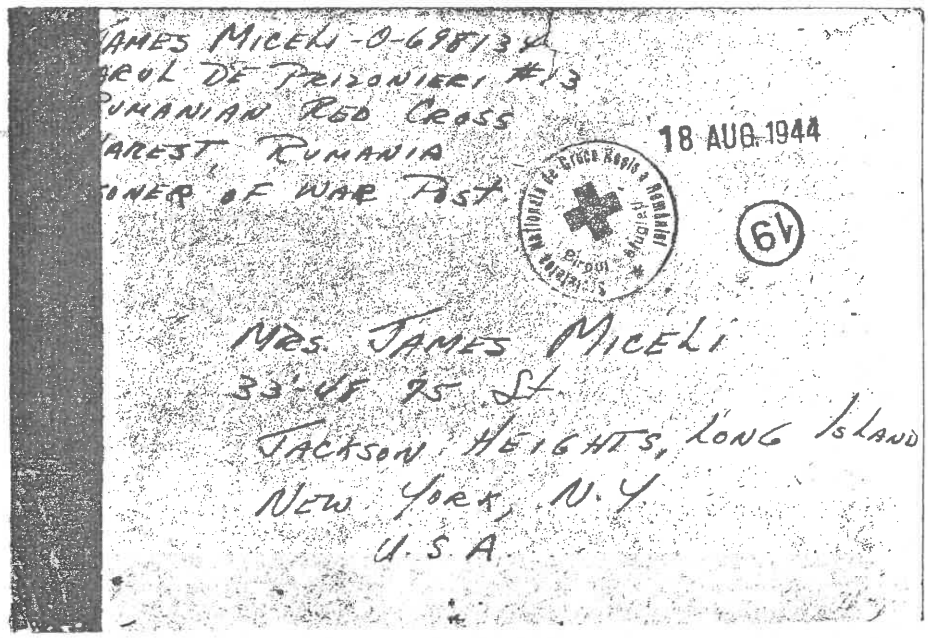
20 JUL. 1944
GRATUITA
FREE OF CHARGE

CARTE POŞTALA A PRIZONIERULUI DE RAZBOIU
PRISONERS OF WAR POST CARD

Destinatar: Addressee MRS. JAMES J. MICELI
Adresa Address 33-48 75 St. JACKSON HTS. L.I.
NEW YORK, N.Y. U.S.A.

Expeditor Sender LT. JAMES J. MICELI -0-698134
Adresa Address LAGURAL DE PRIZONERI #13
c/o RUMANIAN RED CROSS
BUCAREST. RUMANIA.

U.S. CENSOR 11076



They formed sports and education committees. Besides a basketball group, educational groups taught bridge and languages, etc.

Although an escape committee was formed, Miceli states he does not know of anybody succeeding. Almost everyone tried at least once. Most headed for Jugoslavia. The camp's location, in the center of the capital city and far from any friendly frontiers, made such efforts unpromising. Furthermore, capture usually meant beatings by the guards and a period in solitary confinement.

Food shortages posed the biggest problem. A typical breakfast consisted of a slice of bread with some hot water. Lunch would usually be limited to bread and cheese. The dinner feast might offer fish soup - with only the fish head in it - or cabbage soup. And, on Sundays, there was even less to eat.

While there were no attemps at indoctrination, every once in a while, the Nazis would interrogate everyone. Prisoners faced no religious discrimination, being allowed to hold their own services. A Romanian priest was usually also in attendance. The camp commandant, a lieutenant-colonel, ran the camp somewhat loosely but was rather meticulous about being saluted and accorded the respect due his rank.

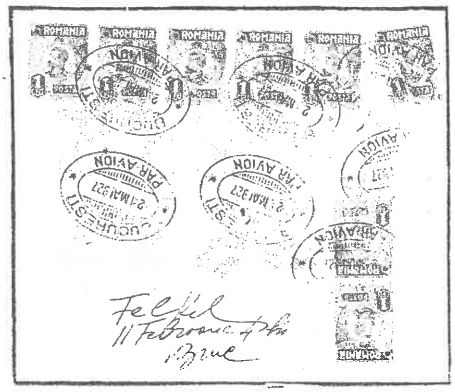
The Romanian people with whom the P.O.W.s came into contact generally had hostile attitudes. At best they were indifferent. One notable exception was Princess Catherina Caradja, a relative of the king's family. The princess ran an orphanage on her estate, about 100 miles away. A regular visitor, on each trip she would bring fruit, corn, pastries, basketballs, radios, games and adventure books.

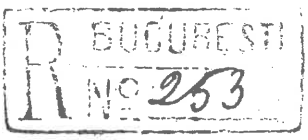
We ask our readers to submit any other information on this subject. Clear photocopies of cards, letters, parcel wrappings, or other postal forms and labels used by the P.O.W.s would be especially helpful. As further information becomes available we will update this article.

AN INTERESTING AEROPHILATELIC COVER

George Pataki

We illustrate here the reverse side of a registered, air mail cover, sent on May 21, 1927, from Bucharest to Vienna, Austria. It is franked with eight 1 Leu, King Ferdinand stamps of 1920 (Scott #269) and nine 2 Lei stamps of the same issue (Scott #271), for a total postage of 26 Lei. The cover's front side displays the address, a registration marking with handwritten number "253" and the same "BUCURESTI PAR AVION 21 MAI 1927" double oval postmark as the stamps on the back are obliterated by.





While this represents an early flown cover, what makes it more interesting is the date flown: May 21, 1927. Charles A. Lindbergh, left Roosevelt Field, Long Island, N.Y., at 7:52 AM on May 20, 1927, in his single-engine monoplane "Spirit of St. Louis". After a flight of 33 hours and 32 minutes, thus on May 21, 1927 he landed at Le Bourget airport, near Paris, France. That date thus marks the completion of the first transatlantic solo flight and it is a rare coincidence to also find it on a Romanian flown cover.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

VOL. 2, NO. 4, 1978

EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 34-24 76th STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11372

Markings of the Postal Masters in the Romanian Principalities.

by Grigore Racoviceanu, str. Tunarilor No. 6, 72121 Bucharest 9, Romania.

Till 1864, the mail transport in the Romanian Principalities was contracted on route sections to concessionaires who collected the cost of the transport and deposited it at the Dept. of Posts. In exchange they received subsidies proportional to the number of horses put at the State's disposal.

Without getting in organizational details, we can mention that every postal station was administered by a postmaster who besides other attributions, received and dispatched the correspondence. The postal masters ("capitani de posta" in Romanian, "maitres des postes" in French) of the Romanian Principalities did not have their own stamps as in some other countries but they marked the items they handled. Some of them have applied their own markings while they collected the transport fees (FRANCO) or forwarded the correspondence and cash shipments with the obligation to collect the postal fees from the addressees (PORTO).

In 1864 the postal administration was taken over by the State, but the function of the postal masters continued. They became employees of the Dept. of Posts.

Correspondence with markings of the postal masters are very scarce. We present the following types, classified by my own system:

(Cont. on column 3)

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%Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger St.,
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Is This Overprint Legitimate?

by Don Heller

I illustrate the 1947 Scutit de Taxa Postala, torch and open book, blue (CMPR G.16), unused, with a typographed overprint '1948', in black. The stamp is on white paper and is perforated. I have been unable to find any reference to this overprint, and wonder if it is legitimate. Why would such an overprint be necessary (if legitimate)? If not legitimate, who is responsible for its creation?

D1. Oval marking, 32/38 mm, the text in Cyrillic letters: PECETE KASII MEZILULUI MOLDAVIEI 1822, and illustrating a horseback driver. It is known on a travel paper owned by Fritz Heimbuchler of Munich, Germany.

D1a. Triangular marking, 25 mm, with cut corners, the text in Cyrillic letters: PECETE KASII MEZILULUI MOLDAVIEI 1825, also illustrating a horseback driver. This marking was published by N.A. Bogdan in the "Monograph of the city of Jassy".

D2. The marking of the concessionaire HRISTOFOR SACHELARIE, of the Bucharest-Braila route; a wreath of laurel leaves, circular 25 mm in diameter, in center with Cyrillic letters: BUCURESCI or BRAILA (Dr. L.N. Cristea collection).

D3. The mark of the concessionaire GH. RASMERITA of the GALBINU relay station (between Bacau and Roman), 25 mm square with cut corners (Fritz Heimbuchler collection). The illustration is a driver on horseback, a monogram "G.R." and the text with Roman letters is POSTA GALBINU 1864.

D3a. Seal (round, 24 mm) with Cyrillic letters: POSTA KAMPU LUNGU, a mail coach, a wreath of leaves and 1856. It was presented in "Revista Telegraf Telefon Posta", 1906, page 104 (Library of the Romanian Academy, P.I.2121).

D3b. Oval, 34/30 mm, the text reads: PRINCIPATILE UNITE, STATIA POSTALE DIN FOKSAN, in the center is a coat of arms (an eagle and a postal horn) and the year 1862. It was found by Kiriac Dragomir (the co-author of the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue 1974) in the State Archives, file No.162-1884, Dept. of Posts.

D3c. Round, 30 mm in diameter, with the text: PRINCIPATELE-UNITE ROMANE, ADMINISTRATIA POSTILERA, SECTIUNILE IX.X.XII, in the center is the coat of arms of the United Principalities and letters A.M. (Alex. Mustea). This marking was reported by Dr.L.N. Cristea, and is seen on a letter dated June 16, 1865.

As a result of Kiriac Dragomir's research, the itinerary of the postal routes concessioned to Alex. Mustea is known as follows:

Section IX: Marasesti-Tecuci-Torcesti-Fundeni-Peneu-Serbesti-Sardari-Galati (known as "The connection route").

Section X: Tecuci-Berheci-Preeschivu-Birlad-Strimtura-Docolina-Crasna-Vasluiu-Solesti-Movila-Poiana Cirnului-Poenilor-Iasi-Sculeni (known as "the big route").

Section XII: Iasi-Podul Iloaiei-Spinoasa-Soci-Latai-Varnita-Botosani-Cocoreni-Bertea-Mihaileni and Cocoreni-Dorohoi (known as "the westward route").

I invite those who have similar items to make them known.

D1

D1a

D2

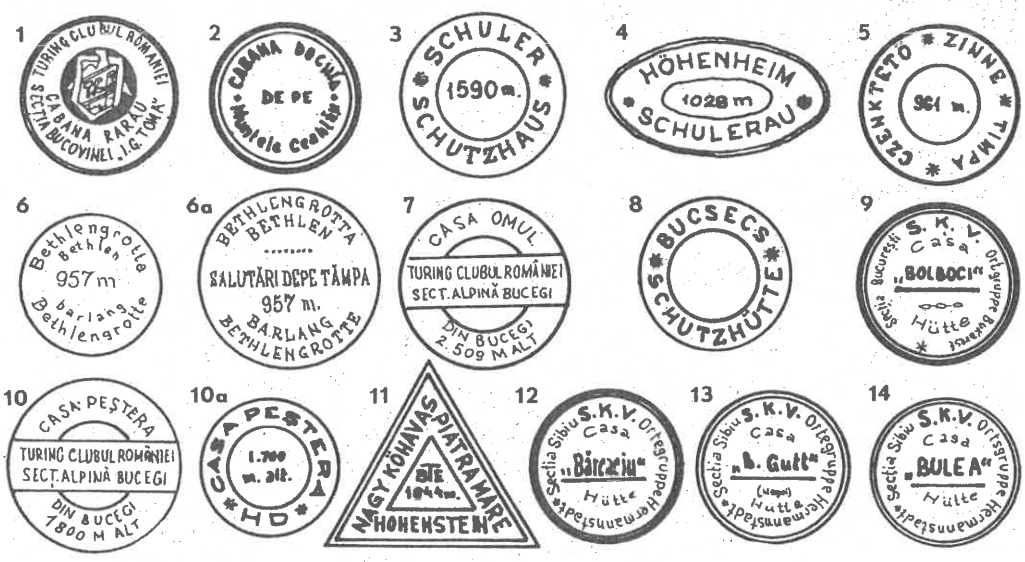
D3

D3a

D3b

D3c

Reprinted from STAMP SHOW NEWS, Aug. 1978.



Romanian Tourist Mail Markings

by Silviu Dragomir
Bucharest, Romania

The local tourist posts established on Romanian soil in 1895 (see "The History of The Private Post Offices and Their Stamps On The Present Territory of Romania" by L. Dengel—reviewed in the No. 2/1977 issue of Romanian Philatelic Studies) had proved their advantages and had shown some similarities in the simplicity in servicing local posts with seasonal activities.

Due to the success of the local posts in Paltinis-Hohe Rinne (established in 1895), Magura (1903) and Bistra (1907), first the "Siebenburgischer Karpathen Verein," and later other societies and administrations started to provide certain postal services to the tourists who gathered at mountain resorts, cottages and restaurants. These services, details of which have been concluded by logical deduction rather than from non-existent official data, were provided at certain tourist sites for the use of the visitors and were available through the use of illustrated postcards with special "location markings." Besides the information referring to the specific place (geographical name, altitude, owner, etc.), these markings—by applying them on postal matter—indicated that the items would be transported by the company agent to the nearest official post office and mailed from there after the required official postage had been affixed. Sometimes, handwritten dates were added to these tourist markings.

This mail was usually carried by the regular supply transports to these tourist sites and did not require special trips.

We do not know if any fee was charged for these services or what the amount of these charges were. These fees, possibly approved or otherwise tacitly accepted by the Postal Administration, were included in the slightly higher prices of the postcards. The surcharge for this service was probably small, a fact proven by the large number of illustrated postcards that were bought by tourists at these resorts and saved as souvenirs instead of being mailed.

We have not seen any of these tourist mail markings applied on ordinary covers or postal stationery, presumably because a surcharge in these cases was not justifiable. These local postal services were not official but rather were tolerated by the postal authorities.

Information about the markings of the local tourist postal services has not been published as yet in philatelic literature. Except for a paper presented on March 24, 1975, by the author of this article at a meeting of the "Study Circle of the Romanian Philatelists' Association" in Bucharest, information on this material has not been previously available to the public. To fill this gap, I present here those markings from my collection together with the associated data on issue and usage.

The tourist mail markings do not have the characteristics of the customary postal markings used to cancel stamps but are markings attesting to the obligation of the tourist company to perform —on request—the carriage of the illustrated postcards to the nearest official post office for posting, a service probably pre-paid by the sale of the cards at higher prices.

In conclusion, these markings are mail connected but they are different from the markings that were in normal postal usage and have to be studied as such.

No.	Tourist site	Owner	Off. post office	Date
1	RARAU	T.C.R.	C.LUNG MOLD.	July 23, 1939
2	DOCHIA	-	CEAHLAU	Aug. 13, 1929
3	POSTAVARUL (Schuler)	-	BRASOV	Aug. 15, 1905
4	POIANA BRASOV (Schulerau)	S.K.V.	BRASOV	Feb. 3, 1931
5	TIMPA (Zinne)	-	BRASOV Aug.3,1907-	Aug.28, 1911
6	TIMPA (Grota Bethlen)	-	BRASOV	Aug. 1, 1923
7	OMUL	T.C.R.	BUSTENI	Sept.28, 1928
8	BUCEGI (Măläesti)	-	BUSTENI	Sept. 9, 1907
9	BULBOCI (Bolboci)	S.K.V.	PETROSITA	May 23, 1937
10	PESTERA	T.C.R.	SINAIA	Aug. 10, 1927
11	PIATRA MARE	B.T.E.	-	-
12	BARCACIU	S.K.V.	-	-
13	NEGOI (B. Gutt)	S.K.V.	-	-
14	BILEA LAC (Bulea)	S.K.V.	-	-

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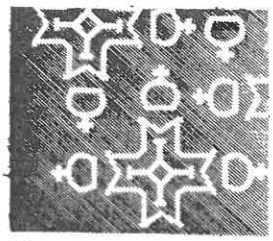
Romanian Franchise Labels of the King Michael I Foundation

by George Pataki



Watermark No. XIV

In September, 1947, a set of three labels (vignettes) was issued by the Romanian Government for use on the correspondence of the King Michael I Foundation. The Foundation was accorded a free franking privilege and these labels indicated this.

The Scott catalogue does not list these labels even though they are an official government issue. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 describes them on page 427, assigning them numbers G.16-18 but none of these labels are illustrated presumably because one of them shows the portrait of King Michael I.

They were printed on white and grey paper, and they are known both with perforation 13½ and imperforate. Those printed on white paper are gummed while the ones printed on grey paper are ungummed. The printing method is photogravure. The watermark is of type XIV, according to the classification in the R.P.S.C. of 1974.

All three labels have the same text: "ROMANIA/ FUNDATIA REGELE MIHAI I/ SCUTIT DE TAXA POSTALA" (Romania/ King Michael I Foundation/Free From Postal Tax) but they differ in color and illustration.

The first label, RPSC No. G.16, illustrates an open book, a hand holding a flaming torch and a royal crown, and is printed in blue. The perforated variety measures 25.5 x 33.0 mm., from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, and the design measures 22.0 x 30.0 mm.

The second label, G. 17, illustrates the royal crown in the center, to the left of the crown an old man writing, and to the right of the crown, two youngsters reading a book. It is reddish brown. The perforated label measures 42.0 x 26.0 mm., and the design measures 37.25 x 22.25 mm. In the lower right

White paper, perforates

Grey paper, imperforates

Normal overprint

Inverted overprint

corner is written "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Factory).

The third label. G.18, illustrates the portrait of King Michael I looking to the viewer's right, in a round frame. It is violet. The perforated label measures 26.5 x 42.5 mm. and the design measures 22.0 x 37.25 mm. The distance between the designs of two labels in a horizontal row is 4.0 mm. In the lower right corner is written "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Factory).

There are four major types: on white paper perforated, on white paper imperforated, on grey paper perforated and on grey paper impoerforated. 30,000 complete sets were printed of each, with an additional 180,000 perforated labels with the portrait of King Michael I.

The number of labels printed seems to have exceeded by far the legitimate requirements of a royal foundation which had very limited activity, even if the forthcoming abolition of the monarchy and the end of its foundation was not foreseen. The monarchy ended in Romania on December 31, 1947, and it was replaced by a republican form of government.

Furthermore, to issue the same labels, both perforate and imperforate, on two types of paper (white and grey), seem to indicate that they were made to please the collectors rather than for the real postal necessities of the foundation.

On December 1, 1947, 30,000 of the violet label, G.18, with the portrait of King Michael I, was overprinted with sanserif letters reading "PRIN AVION" (Air Mail). The size of the overprint is 18.5 x 2.25 mm. and it was applied on both the white paper and the grey paper labels, perforate and imperforate. 25,000 of these were labels overprinted in black, and 5,000 in red.

The following errors are known.

1. *Inverted Overprints,* in black and in red, on perforate and imperforate labels, on white and on grey paper.

2. *Vertically Shifted Overprints,* both on the normal and the inverted overprint varieties, so that the overprint instead of being at the lower or upper part of the label, is shifted towards the center. The author has this error on all four varieties: white paper, grey paper, perforate and imperforate.

3. *Horizontally Shifted Overprints* (to the right) from just a touch, to a point where the letter "N" and part of the letter "O" in "AVION" are falling out of the label's design. The author has this in black, on white paper, perforate and imperforate.

Inverted and vertically shifted overprint

Horizontally shifted overprint

Double overprint

"1948" overprint, perforate and imperforate

4. *Double Overprints.* The author has it only on perforated, white paper, but probably they are on other varieties too. The upper overprint has a weaker imprint than the lower one.

The many types of these "errors" and especially the relatively large amount of these "errors" suggest that perhaps they were done on purpose. Errors can be made and sometimes they can even slip thrugh the control points, but when they are excessive in both number and variety, it can be generally assumed that they were purposely created.

To support the assumption that this overprint was not done officially, I present a short note published in Filatelia magazine, June 15, 1948, under the title: "A denial from the General Directorate of P.(osts) T.(elegrah) T.(elephone)" and I quote: "... Inquiring at the proper place, we were told that... the 'prin avion' overprint applied on the stamps Zumstein Nr. XIII (which is the G.18 label with the portrait of King Michael I, ed. note) was not made by the General Directorate of PTT." Nevertheless, Zumstein lists the overprinted variety as Nr. XIII x, and the R.P.S.C. of '74 as G. 19.

In 1948, after the abolition of the monarchy, the blue label, G.16, was overprinted in its center (with slight shifts up or sideways) with "1948," 6.0 x 2.25 mm. in size, in black and in red. The author has this overprint in both colors but only on white paper, perforate and imperforate, and not on grey paper.

There is the question of the purpose of this overprint, especially during a time of political transition. Why was it necessary for the new republican government to overprint labels issued by the previous monarchist government, especially when these labels were supposed to be used by a defunct royal foundation? The answer is that probably it was not done by the government.

The labels of the King Michael I Foundation were not counterfeited but on postally used covers are extremely rare.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the HOHE RINNE local posts, is available from the EDITOR for $11.00.

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The French Consular Posts in the Romanian Principalities and Dobrudja

By George Pataki

Romanian Philatelic Club

"Gli uffici postali civili francosi all'estero" (The French Civilian Post Offices Abroad), by Luigi Grippa (of Grenoble, France), published in "Boletino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale" (No. 25 of Feb. 1982), contains information useful to Romanian specialists. This article describes the use of small-numeral and large-numeral rhomboid postmarks used by French posts in various countries.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 presents these on pages 530-531 as well as the circular postal markings used by French consular posts on Romanian territories. The summary below is distilled from these two sources.

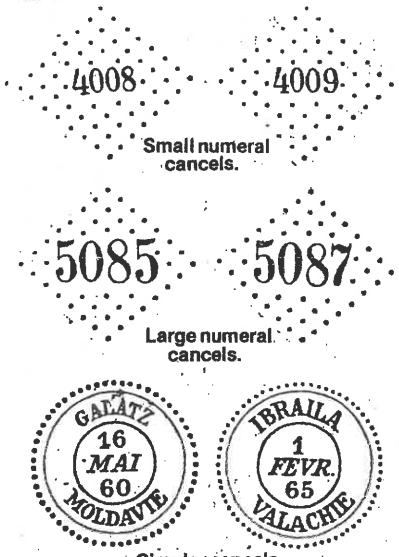
Stamps Used

During the classical period, the French foreign offices used French stamps of the following issues: 3rd issue (Empire imperf.) of 1853; 4th issue (Empire perf.) of 1862; 5th issue (Empire with laurels) of 1863-71; 7th issue (Siege of Paris) of 1870-71; 8th issue (Bordeaux) of 1870; and 9th issue (Ceres) of 1875-76.

Postmarks Used

To obliterate the stamps, rhomboid cancellers were used, each comprising a number of dots with numerals signifying the locality of use in the center. Those with small numerals (4mm. in height) consist of 56 dots and were used from 1862 to 1876. Those with large numerals (6-7mm. in height) consist of 42 dots and were used from 1862 to 1876. To supplement these "killers," triple circle dated cancels were struck on the front of covers. The outermost circle of these is made up of dots. These cancels' diameters varied according to the period and location. Starting with April 1876, the stamps themselves were obliterated with circular dated cancels.

Two French consular post offices existed in the Romanian Principalities (under Turkish suzerainty) in GALATZ (Galati) and in IBRAILA (Braila), each operating from 1855 to 1866. Dobrudja, then part of the Ottoman Empire, had three such offices—in SULINA, TULSCHA (Tulca) and KUSTENDJE (Constanta)—operating from 1853 to 1875. The



following table shows the "small" and "large" numeral markings, the numbers indicating the respective localities, and their scarcity coefficients:

Locality	Small numerals	Large numerals	Scarcity
GALATZ	4008	5085	1.0 R
IBRAILA	4009	5087	1.5 R
SULINA	4015	5099	3-4 R
TULSCHA	4017	5102	2.0 R
KUSTENDJE	—	5139	4.0 R

Inscriptions	Scarcity
GALATZ-MOLDAVIE	1.0 R
IBRAILA-VALACHIE	1.5 R
SULINA-TURQ. D'EUROPE	4.0 R
TULSCHA-TURQ. D'EUROPE	2.0 R
KUSTENDJE-TURQUIE	4.0 R

The KUSTENDJE-TURQUIE marking is a double circle type with diameters measuring 22 mm. and 14mm.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 states that the rhombuses' diagonals measure 23 and 27 mm. and that the triple circle type markings have diameters measuring 24, 20 (I measured 21mm.) and 12mm. The circular markings, with the date in the center on three lines, have the following inscriptions and scarcity coefficients:

Postal Rates

During the period of use of the stamps of the imperforate Empire issue, a single-weight ordinary letter cost 50¢ to mail. The 50¢ total was almost always realized by adding a 10¢ stamp and two 20¢ stamps, although sometimes two 5¢ stamps and two 20¢ stamps made it up. The same rate applied during the period of the perforated Empire issue and during part of the time (until 1866) when the Empire with laurels stamps were in use. From 1867, the 5th issue still being in use, and later during the Siege of Paris and the Bordeaux issue periods, the rate changed to 40¢. During the use of the Ceres issue this rate was 40¢ and eventually 30¢.

Mixed Frankings

As the Universal Postal Union had not yet been organized and no postal agreements existed between the various countries, letters which passed through two or more countries, sometimes, but rarely, had to have beside the French stamps also stamps of other countries, such as Greece, Turkey, Egypt, China, Japan, etc. Such covers, being extremely scarce, are also very expensive.

Conclusion

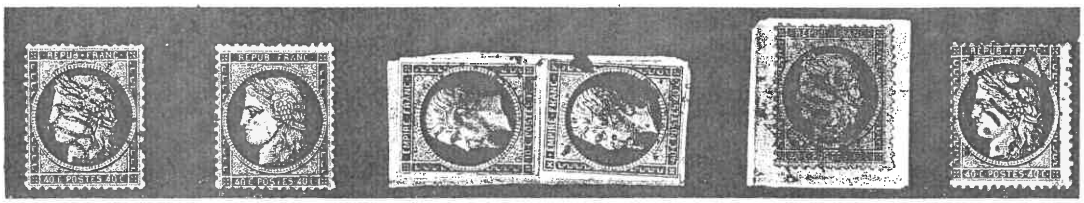
The French consular posts in the Romanian Principalities and Dobrudja did not handle as much mail as the Austrian consular posts did. They serviced even less correspondence than the Greek consular posts.

Collectors should check their French classical stamps to see if they were obliterated with rhomboid cancellers, having any of the numbers listed above or the circular cancellers whose inscriptions prove that they were used in the Romanian Principalities or in Dobrudja. Such items command premium prices. Covers with stamps obliterated with any of the cancellers used by the French consular posts in what today is Romania, should be considered real gems of postal history.

FRANCE USED ABROAD

ROMANIA

Lot		Description	Reference	Evaluation
1636	O	**DOBRUDJA 1870** 40c Ceres with blue G.C. *5099* of Sulina, very scarce, several thins at edges, vf appearing.	#59; Ceres #38; F3,000	$75
1637	O	**40c Ceres with scarce G.C. *5139* of Kustendje, f-vf.**	**#59; Ceres #38; F2,800**	**$260**
1638	△	**MOLDAVIA 1862** 10c and 40c Emperor Napoleon III each tied by blue P.C. *4008* of Galatz to a piece of cvr, nicely struck, f-vf.	#25, 27; Ceres #13, 16; F1,600	$150
1639	△	**1870** 40c Ceres t.t.p. by full blue G.C. *5085* of Galatz, f-vf.	#59; Ceres #38; F650	$70
1640	O	**WALLACHIA 1870** 40c Ceres with brilliant blue G.C. *5087* of Ibraila, f centering but fresh, vf cancel.	#59; Ceres #38; F900	$100



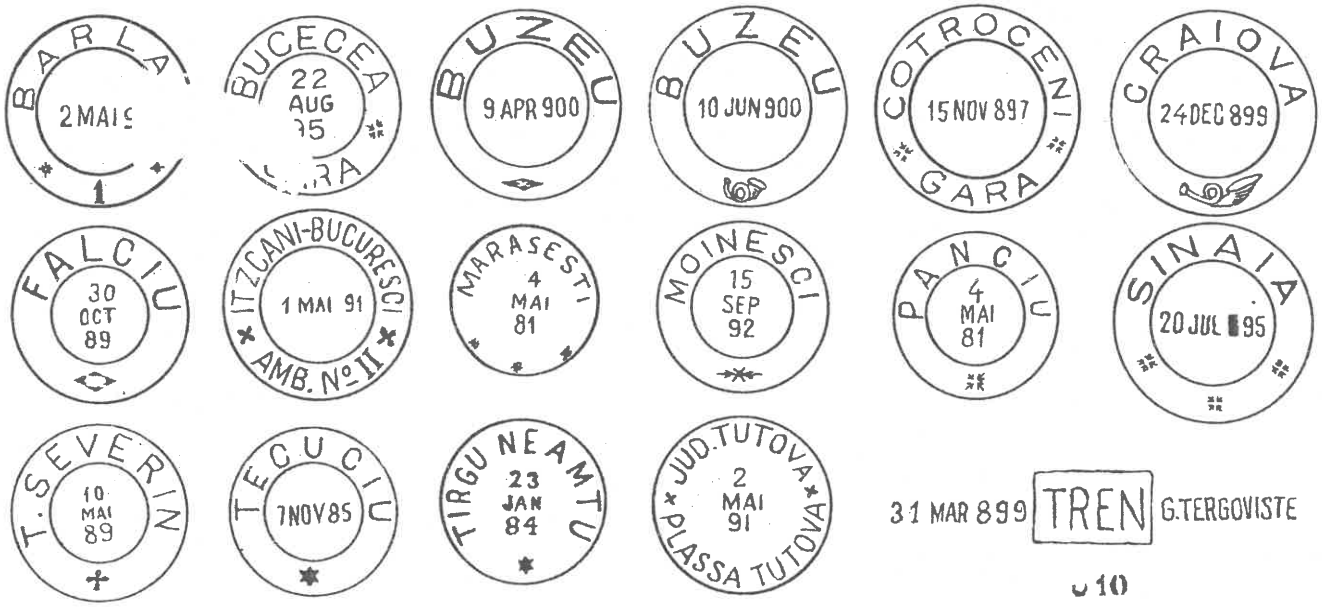
1636 1637 1638 1639 1640

ROMANIA

2458	✉	**1862** 30pa blue on thin wove paper with large to huge margins all around, tied to folded cvr to Bucarest by blue *BRAILA 27 10* cds, bkstd, vf.	#18	$60
2459	✉	**1872** Cvr with 15b vermilion 1869 and 10b orange yellow 1871 Prince Carol imperfs, tied to cvr to Vienna by small *BRAILA 13 JAN 72* cds, insufficiently paid, red bkst, f-vf and attractive.	#40, 44	$250
2463	P	**1903** New Post Office commem imperf proofs on cards, 4 diff values printed in black and another 5l in brown, slight foxing to some, scarce.	#166-7, 9, 70 (2 ×) var	$100

X2463

XIX CENTURY ROMANIAN postal markings.



R. Phil. Studies, NY, 1984, VIII, nr. 3

D.D.S.G. Parcel Control Labels

George Pataki

Figure 1.

1829 saw the creation of the Austrian "Donau Dampfschiffahrts Gesellschaft" (The Danube Steamship Navigation Company) to transport cargo and passengers. From 1846 on, as part of its agreement with the government, it also carried Austrian official mail free of charge. Due to inefficiency of the local postal service, various D.D.S.G. office agents and ship captains would unofficially forward private mail. This practice became so widespread, that in 1838 the Austrian posts prohibited such activities for mail collected in foreign ports and sent to Austria. In 1866, the company officially started handling correspondence between ports on the Danube located in Austria-Hungary, Serbia, Romania, and what is now Bulgaria (Turkey at that time). Between 1869-1870, with the agency in Odessa also processing mail, their route was extended to Russia.

On April 15, 1866, the company issued its first postage stamps. Others were printed between March, 1868 and 1870. This private concern also used its own cancellers. These obliterations are well described in "Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part Six", by S.D. Tchilinghirian and W.S.E. Stephen, with additions in "Austrian Post Offices Abroad" by Gabriel Sassower, as published in "Austria" (The Austrian Stamp Club of Britain), No. 63/1983.

Besides their postage stamps, which are private local issues, the D.D.S.G. used several types of parcel control labels. These attested to payment for various services such as parcel post, insurance, fiscal charges, etc. These labels generally have denominations in the currency of the country they were used, such as "Pfennig", "Kreuzer", "Heller", "Fillér", "Dinar", "Centimes", "Leva" and "Bani". While D.D.S.G. letter services ended in Romania in 1875, and those in Dobrudja in 1880, parcel post service continued.

This article deals only with the parcel control labels used in 5 Danubian ports (Galați, Brăila, Călărași, Ostrov, and Silistra), where probably large numbers of packages were handled (Fig.1). The labels (Figs.2-8) show denominations in "Bani", the Romanian currency and come perforated or imperforate. Of large size, they measure about 58 by 58 mm. from perforation tip to perforation tip, with designs of 55 by 55 mm. The perforation is 9½, with coarse, irregular teeth. Printed lithographically by H. Engel & Sohn of Vienna, Austria, they are on white, wove, unwatermarked, gummed paper. The top text reads: "D.D.S.G." while the denomination is at

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figure 8.

bottom. Between these appears "Gepäck-Control-Marke" (Parcel Control Stamp) and the route (for example "Galaz-Braila").

By comparing data found in "Die Marken der Donaudampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft" (published in "Donau-Post" of June 5, 1924), and in "Die Verrechnungsmarken der Donau-Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft", by Josef Sturany (published in "Die Postmarke" of Dec. 6, 1924), with the collection of Denwood N. Kelly of Baltimore, Md. (containing 127 such labels), I was able to put together the following information:

Two groups of labels exist, one for the Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz linear shuttle service and the other for the Kalaras-Ostrov-Silistria triangular service. No forgeries are known but reprints were probably made in shades and colors differing from those of the originals. Galaz (today spelled Galați) and Brăila are Romanian cities located north of the Danube River; Kalaras (today spelled Călărași) is north of the Danube in Romania; Ostrov is south of that river in Dobrudja (Turkey until 1878, Romania after that); Silistria (today spelled Silistra) is south of the Danube in Dobrudja (Turkey until 1878, Bulgaria later or until 1913 when it was attached to Romania but it returned to Bulgaria as a consequence of World War. II.)

Printed in sheets of 20 labels, each pane consists of 5 horizontal rows of 4 items (Figs.9-12). While the company issued most sheets perforated, some were left imperforate. All sheets consist of only labels for one specific route. Some contain all 20 of the same denomination (20 or 40 Bani), while others (such as the Galaz-Braila) have in their 2 left columns ten of the 40 Bani and in their 2 right columns ten of the 20 Bani. This results in 5 possible se-tenant pairs with different denominations (Fig. 13).

All labels bear the Romanian currency "Bani", even the one presumably used in Bulgaria (Silistria nach Ostrov-Kalaras.) It seems that border towns readily accepted Romanian currency and for accounting purposes it was more convenient to use only one type of currency.

The following labels are known to have been issued:

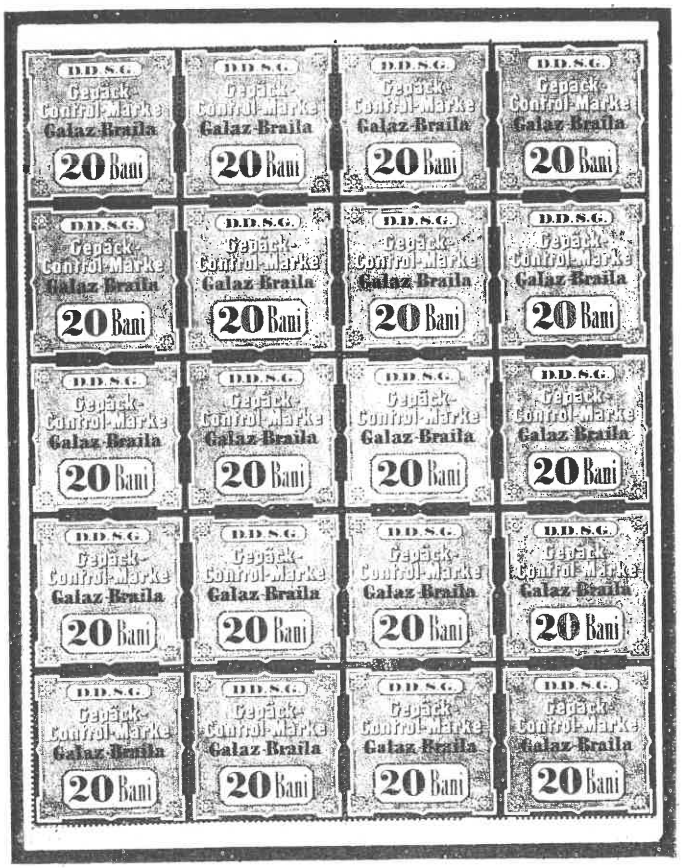


Figure 9.

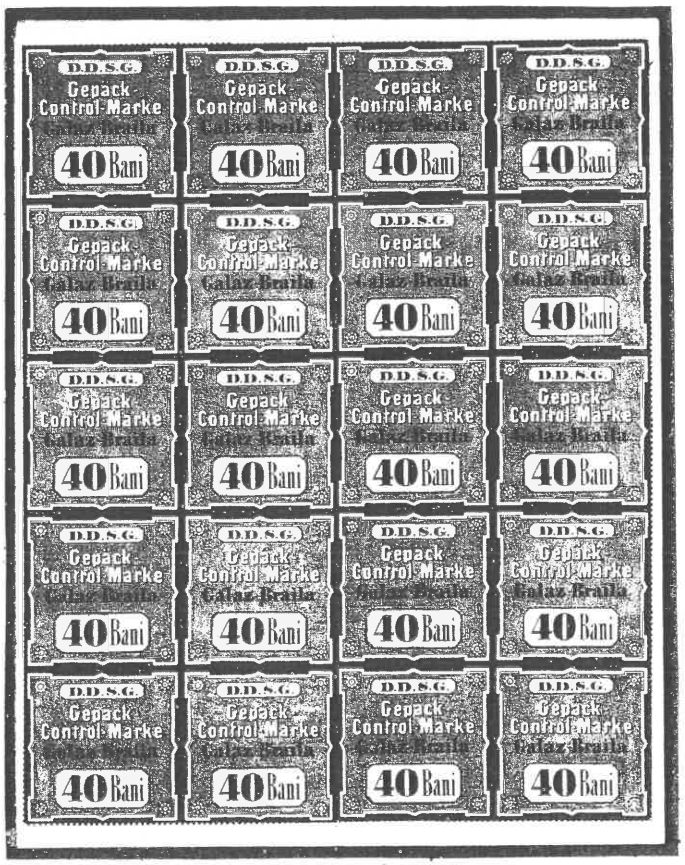


Figure 10.

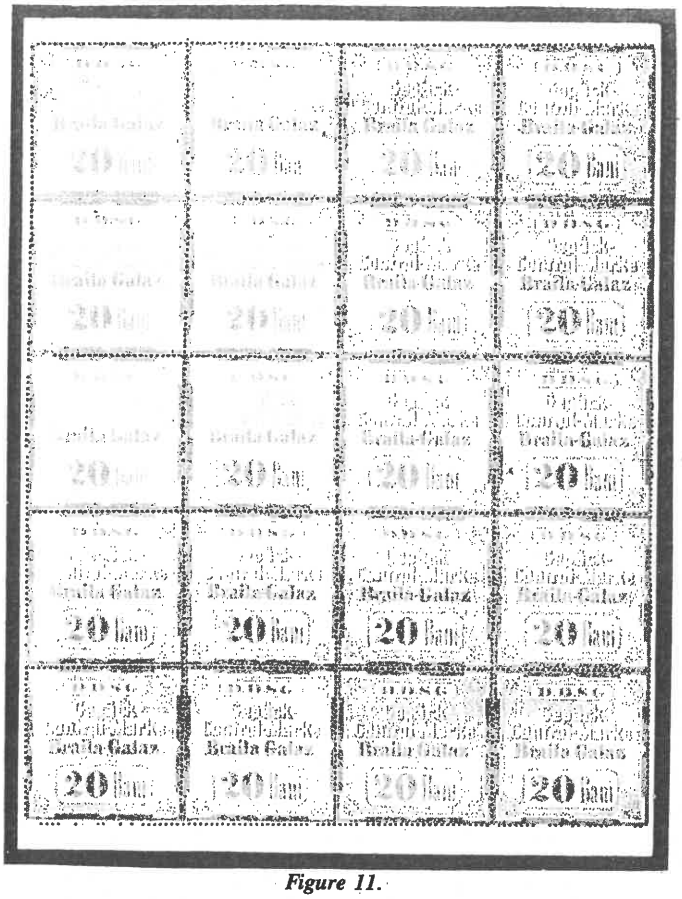


Figure 11.

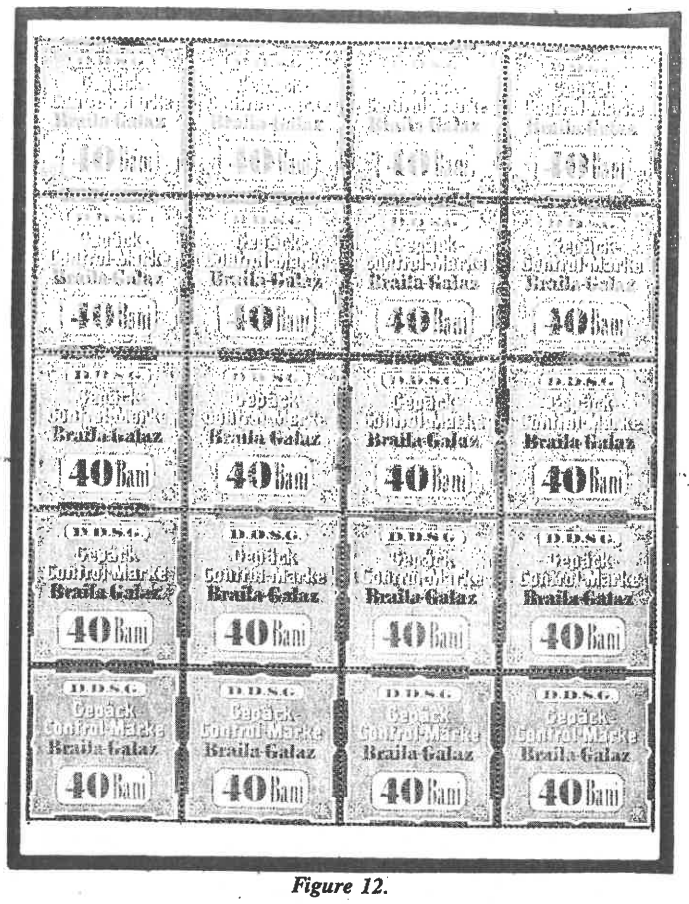


Figure 12.

No.	Denomination	Color	Inscribed Route
1	20 Bani	brownish red	Galaz-Braila
2	40 Bani	brownish red	Galaz-Braila
3	20 Bani	light rose red	Galaz-Braila
4	40 Bani	light rose red	Galaz-Braila
5	20 Bani	bright rose red	Galaz-Braila
6	40 Bani	bright rose red	Galaz-Braila
7	20 Bani	pale blue green	Braila-Galaz
8	40 Bani	pale blue green	Braila-Galaz
9	20 Bani	yellow green	Braila-Galaz
10	40 Bani	yellow green	Braila-Galaz
11	20 Bani	yellow brown	Braila-Galaz
12	40 Bani	yellow brown	Braila-Galaz
13	40 Bani	dark brown	Kalaras nach Ostrov-Silistria
14	40 Bani	yellow	Ostrov nach Kalaras-Silistria
15	40 Bani	blue	Silistria nach Ostrov-Kalaras

Figure 13.

Sturany also lists green, light brown and yellow for the Braila-Galaz labels. As these colors do not appear in Kelly's collection, we presume such are simply shades of the above listed colors. Moreover, Sturany gives the perforation for all the labels as 10½, however, all I checked gauged 9½.

According to the article published in "Donau-Post", the Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz labels were issued both in 1874 and 1884 while those for the triangular service between Kalaras, Ostrov and Silistria were not issued until 1884, thus after Ostrov became Romania and Silistria became Bulgaria.

To complicate matters, "Billig's Philatelic Handbook", Vol. I (Third Revised Edition, 1963) gives the date of issue for all these labels as 1888 and the perforation as 10½. For the Galaz-Braila labels, Billig lists red brown, lilac red, carmine and brick red, for both the 20 and the 40 Bani. Also, for the 20 Bani. Braila-Galaz label, Billig catalogues yellow green and blue green (as found in the Kelly collection), instead of yellow brown, lists the tow separate colors of yellow and brown. For the Kalaras-Ostrov-Silistria labels, besides the dark brown color found by us, Billig's listing presents us with chocolate, blue and golden yellow. Furthermore, while Billig does not at all include the "Ostrov nack Kalaras-Silistria" label, this must be an omission, this item being known to exist.

Labels affixed on packages (or shipping forms) were obliterated with the D.D.S.G.'s own cancellers. Such items are very scarce

because they were usually destroyed with the wrapping paper. In the Kelly collection, out of 127 such labels only 4, all of the Galaz-Braila type, show a cancellation.

While the D.D.S.G. serviced many Danubian ports in several countries, it used these parcel control labels only in the 5 ports on the aforementioned routes.

The words, "Gepack-Control-Märke" (Parcel Control Stamp), suggest that the purpose of these labels was to show that the fee for "controlling" the package had been paid, with controlling probably meaning that a D.D.S.G. employee signed for the package to guarantee its delivery; thus this item served as a kind of registration label. However, it is possible that they were some simple routing instructions.

Regarding, the need for two denominations, one could guess that it had something to do with the weight or size of the packages.

The exact purpose of the "control labels", their period of use, why the same routes (Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz) utilized different denominations (20 and 40 Bani) and colors, etc. are questions still waiting for substantiated answers.

Romanian Listings in 5 Catalogues

George Pataki

Having compared Scott (1979), Minkus (1982-1983), Michel (1979), Gibbons (1980) and Zumstein (1982), we present our conclusion. The table below notes only how these catalogues vary from each other; if all five matched as regards a certain aspect, it does not show such an observation. For example, on most items all quoted much higher prices, to varying extents, than average existing market prices, and for scarce postally used items (such as souvenir sheets and wartime issues with very short periods of postal use) all five quoted about the same prices (and in some instances, even lower valuations than) for the same items in mint conditions which are abundant.

The various catalogues treat the "occupation" issues differently. In our opinion, all such issues, if printed or overprinted by a Romanian authority or used on Romanian territory, should interest the Romanian specialist. Therefore, it would serve a purpose to list them in the Romanian section.

None of the 5 catalogues lists the 1919 Arad and Timisoara (Romanian cities) issues or the 1919 and 1920 Debretin issues (overprinted by Romanian authority) in their Romanian sections; instead, one can find them in the Hungarian section because the basic, unoverprinted stamps are Hungarian issues. To complicate the situation, the 1919 Cluj and Oradea issues are listed by Scott under Hungary, while the other 4 catalogues place them under the Romanian heading.

The Romanian sections of Scott and Michel list the overprinted foreign issues (Austrian, Bulgarian, German) used in Romania during temporary foreign occupations, Minkus and Zumstein omit them (Zumstein lists the Bulgarian issue in the Bulgarian section), while Gibbons lists the Bulgarian and German overprints, omitting the Austrian ones.

Many of the postal tax stamps find a place in all 5 catalogues but numerous special issues, free franks, revenues and Cinderellas are generally omitted, with Michel and Zumstein listing a few of them.

While illlustration for later stamps generally were good, those for some earlier ones are so bad that they don't even resemble the stamps they mean to portray. In fact some show counterfeits instead of genuine ones. Examples of such abound: Scott #1, 22, 33, 40, 44, 73, 76, 94, 108, etc.; Minkus #1, 5, 6, 7, 29, 32, etc.; Michel #1, 5, 6, 11, 14, 17, 21, 26, 36, 55, 57, 77, 94, 162, 173, etc.; Gibbons #1, 6, 47/48, 52/53, 55, etc.; Zumstein #1, 5, 6, 010, 11, 14, etc.

Some captions are incorrect. Scott says that type SP133 represents "Romanian Troops Crossing Sereth River to retake Bessarabia", while Minkus claims that the same stamp (#907) depicts "Troops crossing Sereth river into Bessarabia, Antonescu". This proves that the editors often copy each other's mistakes without bothering to check the facts. Any map should show that entering Bessarabia from Romania involves crossing the Pruth River and not the Sereth. Furthermore, on the very same stamp, around the Marshal Ion Antonescu's portrait, there appears his famous order: "Va ordon treceti Prutul", which translates as "I order you to cross the Pruth".

Some catalogues give incorrect translations of the Romanian texts. Scott translates the text on B429 as "Mail Coach in the Snow", Gibbons, for the same stamp (#3775), gives "Mail-Cart in the Snow"; Minkus simply calls it "Mail Coach". The Romanian text, however, reads "Postalion iarna", which means "Mail Coach in the Winter". Michel and Zumstein got it right.

Some yield incorrect data. For instance, Scott gives the correct date of issue "1864" for #19-21 correctly on the top of the listing but the text twice mentions the wrong date, "1863".

We also can see inconsistencies. Some list one unissued set (Cuza) but don't list another unissued set (Ferdinand). Or, Scott captions #287, 2055 and B89 as "Michael the Brave" while the same ruler later on (#2571-74) becomes Michael the Bold".

Across all its illustrations, from the first issue to about 1947, Scott places a white horizontal line, as was the custom in the early days. This was originally done to comply with the archaic laws of the U.S. books concerning reproducing stamps. This proves that Scott has never bothered to redo the affected illustrations, but has carried them over from one edition to the next.

All stamp catalogue editors that I talked to, claim to have difficulties with annual updating. They say that they receive new issue data and illustrations from Romania only after great delays.

Closer examination of all these catalogues shows that periodic reviews are necessary. Missing issues should be included, the text should be corrected where incorrect, bad and misleading illustrations should be replaced and prices have to be adjusted to reflect actual market values.

The number assigned to each stamp differs in each catalogue. While it would be costly and difficult to change all the numbers in all catalogues, so that they conform, if this were done it would be very advantageous for collectors and dealers alike.

	SCOTT	MINKUS	MICHEL	GIBBONS	ZUMSTEIN
Listings	sep. semipostals, air	chronologically	chronologically	chronologically	chronologically
Quantities issued	no	no	yes	no	no
Name of dsgnr/engrvr.	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Add. inf. paper, printing, varieties, etc.	some	little	plenty	some	plenty
Year of issue for every set	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Paper stock	good	good	poor	very good	good
Illustration quality	fair/good	good	poor/good	good/very good	fair/good
Illustration size	medium	medium	small	medium	small
Illustrates all stamps of dif. design	no	no	yes	no	yes
Illus. all souvenir sheets	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists special issues, revenues, etc.	no	no	some	no	some
Lists unissued Cuza stamps	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Lists unissued Ferdinand stamps	no	no	yes	no	not illust.
Lists 1919 Pokutzia issue	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists 1919 Cluj, Oradea issues	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lists Austrian occupation issue	yes	no	no	no	no
Lists Bulgarian occupation issue	yes	no	no	yes	no
Lists German occupation issues	yes	no	no	yes	no
Lists 1944/45 Northern Transylvania issues	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists telegraph stamps	no	no	yes	no	no

R. Phil. Studi., 1980, IV, nr. 1

HUNGARIAN CONSULAR POST IN ROMANIA: A POSTAL HISTORY ANOMALY

Dr. Abdul G. Khan, 7929 St. George St. Springfield, VA 22153

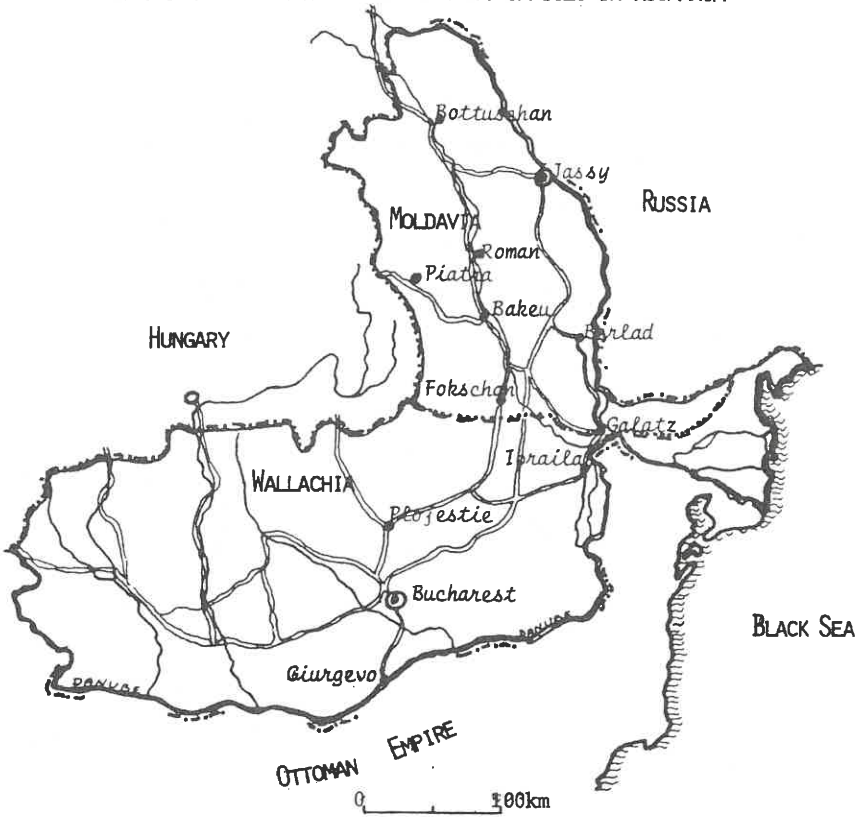
Research in history often starts with questions related to a past puzzle for which there are no easy answers. Such is the case with postal research. One small but significant aspect of the postal history of East Central Europe that has not received sufficient attention is the question of the Austrian and Hungarian consular post on Romanian territory during the 1867-9 period. How did this foreign *dual* postal service come about? What purposes did these postal services serve? Was there any rationale for dividing up the existing post offices of the Austrian Empire, operating in Romania, between Austrian and Hungarian postal administrations? So far, definitive and documented answers to these questions have evaded me. At best, I can present a few known facts and some serious speculations (supported by illustrations of rather rare postal items) pertaining to this postal history anomaly.

For a decade prior to the inception of the Austrian—Hungarian dualistic structure in the Habsburg Empire (and even earlier under somewhat different circumstances) the Imperial postal administration maintained the so—called consular post in Romania. These post offices were soon confined to handling only foreign mail to and from Romanian towns, since internal mail had come under the jurisdiction of the unified Romanian postal administration thru the merger of the Moldavian and Wallachian principalities in 1861—1862.

On the eve of the creation of *Austria—Hungary*, as a result of the famous Compromise of 1867, there were 12 Imperial post offices in Romania, out of a total of 62 that were maintained by the Austrian Imperial authorities in all of the Ottoman Empire. On May 1, 1867, six out of twelve post offices were handed over to Hungary to be administered by the postal directorate of Hermannstadt (Romanian: Sibiu; Hungarian: Nagyszeben). The remaining six post offices were placed under the Austrian postal administration and became part of the postal directorate of Lemberg. Prior to that date, the postal directorate of Hermannstadt, which managed all the 12 post offices in Romania, was a part of the Imperial postal administration.

The accompanying map shows the location of the twelve post offices in Romania and the main routes connecting the post offices to the postal directorates. The six post offices under the Austrian administration are all located in the Moldavian principality. Jassy, being a local government center, alone had appreciable postal traffic. All other Austrian post offices could not have served any meaningful postal function of the Empire. The Hungarian post offices, on the other hand, in most cases were commercial centers with extensive marine and overland traffic. Bucharest is, of course, the capital of Romania and mail from the post office there was most frequent. Galatz, Ibraila and Giurgevo are strategically located on the Danube.

AUSTRIAN & HUNGARIAN CONSULAR POST OFFICES IN ROUMANIA



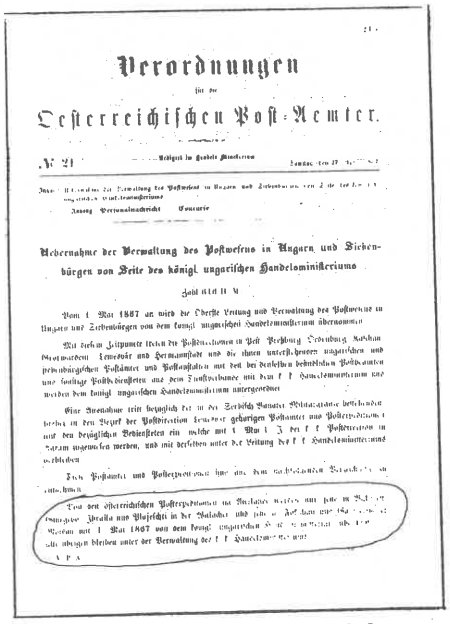
In the accompanying tabulation (Table 1), we can see the territorial location of the 12 post offices as between the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia on the one hand, and their respective postal affiliations to the Austrian and Hungarian postal administrations. The creation of the two autonomous postal administrations, as a result of the famous Austro—Hungarian Compromise of 1867, also brought about a bifurcation of the Imperial post offices in Romania. In this respect the postal history of the Austrian post in Romania was different from that of the Military Border District of Croatia—Slavonia. In the latter case, the postal administration was placed under the direct administration of the *common* Kriegsministrium in Vienna. In the Romanian postal situation, the wishes of the recalcitrant Hungarian authorities were treated with greater deference — Hungary was handed over the post offices of Galatz and Fokshan in Moldavia and Bucharest, Giurgevo, Ibraila and Plojestie in Wallachia.

This was by no means a quick and easy compromise between Vienna and Budapest. Only after months of negotiations was it possible to reach an agreement on April 2, 1867. Those who have access to the historic records of the period, and the reports of the bilateral postal negotiations, know that the compromise came after a great deal of acrimony and bickering. Even the design of the stamps of 1867 to be used in the two *halves* of the Habsburg Empire was a result of the compromise and only because Hungary could not produce its own stamps in time.

Table 1. Austrian and Hungarian Consular Post Offices on Romanian Territory, 1867—1869

Postal Administration	Romanian Territory: Moldavia	Romanian Territory: Wallachia
Austrian Administration (Postal Directorate of Lemberg)	BAKEU BERLAD BOTTUSCHAN JASSY PIATRA ROMAN	
Hungarian Administration (Postal Directorate of Hermannstadt)	FOKSCHAN GALATZ	BUCHAREST GIURGEVO IBRAILA PLOJESTIE

To this day we find the raging controversy as regards the proper classification of the 1867 issue with most Austrian philatelists and commercial catalogs claiming the issue as Austrian, or its use in Hungary to be described as *forerunners of Hungary,* while the Hungarian postal historians have concluded that the issue is a Hungarian first! The compromise had a very special element that is rarely discussed. The 1867 issue was also developed for use in the *Levant*, with one difference, namely, the denomination of the currency was Soldi instead of Kreuzer/Krajzar (*Sld* instead of *Kr*). The culmination of the negotiations was the postal decree issued on April 30, 1867 describing the compromise postal arrangements between Austrian and Hungarian authorities that included the fate of the 12 post offices in Romania (see Fig. 1).



Verordnungen

für die

Oesterreichischen Post-Aemter.

Nr. 21

Uebernahme der Verwaltung des Postwesens in Ungarn und Siebenbürgen von Seite des königl. ungarischen Handelsministeriums

Fig. 1 First page of the postal decree of April 27, 1867, establishing the Hungarian postal administration and transferring the six post offices in Romania to the Hungarian postal administration.

The stamps themselves were not issued until June 1, 1867. Consequently, the post offices, under the new dualistic arrangement, had to continue the use of 1864 issue of Austria in the interim in both Austrian and Hungarian post offices in Romania. The currency designation on the 1864 issue for use in the Levant was Soldi, as distinct from Kreuzer designation inscribed on the regular stamps of the Empire. The 1864 issue was demonetized on June 15, 1867 in Hungary and in the six Romanian post offices that came under the Hungarian jurisdiction.

A dramatic example of the use of the 1864 issue after this interim period is illustrated by a letter franked with a pair of 15 Soldi stamps of 1864 and cancelled by the Galatz postmark. The date of the postmark is June 14 (1867), which was just before the demonetization of the 1864 issue. The letter has an added postal history interest because of the *mixed* franking with a 20 lepta Greek adhesive postage due (collected on arrival of the letter in Corfu).

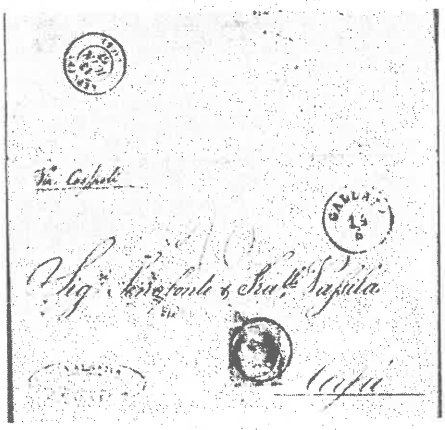


Fig. 2 Use of the 1864 issue in the Hungarian consular post in Romania, Galatz June 14, 1867, on a letter addressed to Corfu.

Equally dramatic is an item which provides a parallel and contrasting illustration of the Hungarian consular post in Galatz. With regard to the stamp issue used for franking, the date of the letter, and the type of postmark, the illustration given in Figure 3 is excitingly different from the previous illustration. The most striking aspect of this item is that it is franked with the *Kr* stamps instead of the *Sld* stamps of 1867 making it a significant rarity. The letter is dated January 24, 1869, that is, approximately two months prior to the closing of all the Austrian and Hungarian post offices in Romania. The Galatz postmark deserves special comment: In all the six Hungarian consular post offices in Romania there was no change in the postmark as a result of the Hungarian takeover. The existing Austrian postmarks continued to be used. The only exception was Galatz where the Hungarian—made postmark was introduced sometime in 1868. The Hungarian postmark was larger in diameter and showed the year, which was the common practice with the Hungarian—made postmarks.

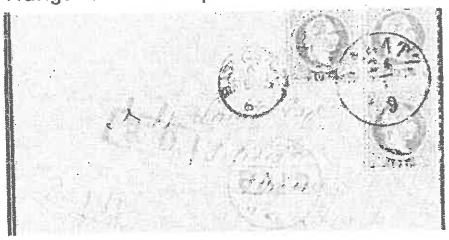


Fig. 3 The rare use of the Kr—valued stamps in place of Sld—valued stamps in Galatz on letter addressed to England. The Hungarian—made postmark is dated January 24, 1869.

A third, and equally contrasting item of postal history, is a *stampless* letter that originated in Galatz bearing the postmark of that post office. Postal regulations at that time did not permit the practice of collecting the postage from the recipient, except where postage was due was required for handling mail inside the foreign country, which was later not needed as a result of UPU arrangements. The letter was sent to Corfu where the three Greek adhesives were applied to collect full postage.

Fig. 4 "Stampless" letter from Galatz with adhesives applied to collect postage due from the addressee in Corfu. (Courtesy: Mr. William Sandrik of Bethesda, MD.)

All the above illustrations demonstrate the advantageous location of Galatz with respect to seagoing traffic thru the Black Sea. The final example of Galatz shows a riverbound route using the Danube. The letter shown in Figure 5 was sent by the Danube steamer via Vienna to Italy. The three 1867 Sld stamps are tied by three—ring *1* cancels of Vienna. The Galatz origin is indicated by the manuscript notation on the top left.

Fig. 5 Letter sent from Galatz on the Danubian steamer via Vienna to Italy. (Mercury Stamp Co., Inc.)

Extensive river traffic took place in both directions, so that letters were not only sent via the Danubian steamers *from* Galatz but also *to* Galatz. Bazias, on the Serbian Banat segment of the Military Border District, served as a transit point. To illustrate the prevalence of this traffic we show a cover that was sent from Vienna to Galatz on June 14, 1869, but by this time the consular posts in Romania had been terminated and the Galatz postmark is conspicuous by its absence! (Fig. 6).

Fig. 6 Letter sent from Vienna to Galatz after the termination of the Hungarian consular post in Roumania. (Courtesy: Mr. George Alevizos, Santa Monica, CA)

Galatz was a major maritime commercial center. All the letters illustrated above demonstrate this fact. Strategically located on the mouth of the Danube it served both the river traffic to and from Vienna and the seagoing vessels thru the Black Sea. In addition, Galatz was served by an important route that headed to the North towards Moldavia and Galicia. I have not been able to find a letter from Galatz that will illustrate the utilization of this overland route for postal communication.

(To be continued)

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ROMANIA—10 bani bisect, by HUGO KUNZI, Box 16, CH-6981 Ponte-Crenenaga/TI, Switzerland.

Reprinted from *"Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico"*, No. 18/1978, Florence, Italy.

The first perforated postage stamps of the Principality of Romania were issued in February 1872 in sheets of 100 (7 x 15 with five blank spaces in the last vertical row). The set had three values: 5 bani, carmine; 10 bani azure; 25 bani, sepia; with the effigy of Carol I with beard. Identical imperforated postage stamps had been issued the previous year. It should be noted that the 1871 issue included also a 10 bani, orange, and a 15 bani, red, stamp. Only the above mentioned three preforated values were chosen because they corresponded to the rates used at the time, specifically 5 bani for local letters and domestic printed matter, 10 bani for a domestic letter and 25 bani the registration fee.

The letter here illustrated is in fact a circular sent as printed matter from Focsani to Galati (Galatz) on April 26, 1872, in it the establishment of a commercial enterprise of Messrs. Petrache Craciun and Costache Constantinescu was announced. Because the postage rate for printed matter was 5 bani, this was achieved by bisecting diagonally a 10 bani, azure, perf. 12½, stamp. Until now, this is a unique example of bisect use of this stamp.

MAJOR ARTICLES IN THE ROMANIAN MAGAZINE FILATELIA

No. 1/1979

First Map, Seals and Markings of the Romanian Posts and Quarantines	Kiriac Dragomir

No. 2/1979

Postal Services in Railroad Stations on the Itcani-Roman Pascani-Iasi and Veresti-Botosani Lines, 1869-1891 (continued in nos. 3 and 4)	Dumitru Passalega
Notes on the *Wheat Ear* Type Postal Stationery	Norbert Blistyar

No. 3/1979

Aerograms (continued in nos. 4, 6 and 8)	Ovidiu Demetrescu

No. 4/1979

On the Watermarks of the 1919-1925 Definitives	Barbu Popescu

No. 5/1979

On the 1918 *TAXA DE PLATA* overprint	Dr. Marcel Sapira
An Undoubted Forgery	Dr. P. Voiculet-Lemeny
A telegraph Marking with *Bison Head* Ornament	Dr. Ion Patrascu and Marin Iordache

No. 6/1979

The 5 Bani Blue and the 5 Bani Rose Errors of the 1879 Bucuresti issue	Emanoil Savoiu
The Postal Code in Philately	Mihail Popovici

No. 7/1979

Romania 1822-1872 Exhibit, Recipient of the *Grand Prix at Philaserdica '79*	Cornel Spineanu
Romanian Stamps with Gutter-Margins	Dr. Marcel Sapira

No. 8/1979

The *P.D.* Postal Marking	Dumitru Passalega
On Newspaper Wrappers	Silviu Dragomir
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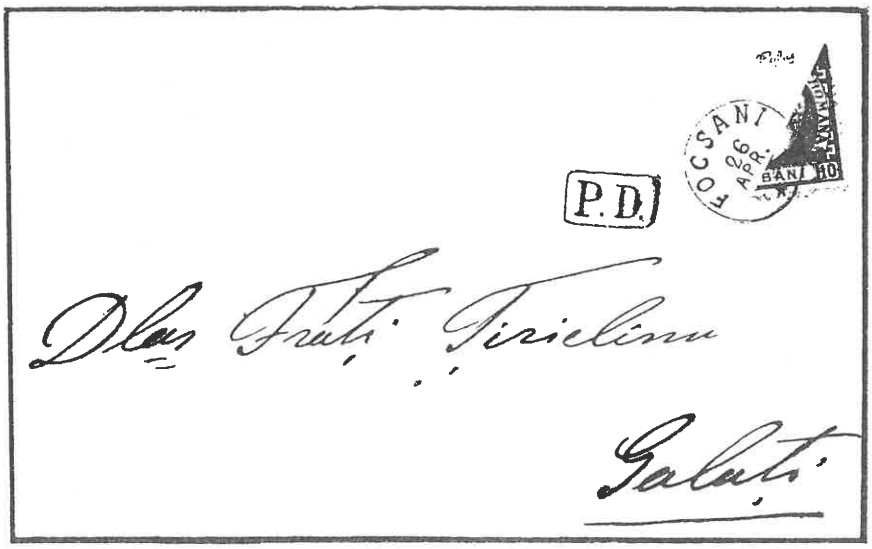

R. Phil. Stud., 1981, V, 12-4

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JUNE, 1981

Romania's English Railway Post

By Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, Str. Cristian, Vila No. 9, 2400 Sibiu, Romania

Postal services were established by two private English companies to provide or supplement other means of communication in parts of the Ottoman Empire now Romanian territory.

These were the railway post of Danube-Black Sea Railway Co. (D.B.S.R.) between Kustendje (Constanta) and Czernawoda (Cernavoda) and the sea mail service of T. B. Morton & Co. with headquarters in Constantinople and facilities in Sulina, Braila and Constanta.

This study is concerned with the D.B.S.R. service. The Constanta-Cernavoda Railway was built by the T. Trevor Barklay & John Stainforth Co. to shorten travel time between the Black Sea port of Constanta and the interior of what is now Romania by way of the Danube River port of Cernavoda. It served the English Kustendje Harbour Co. which was responsible for commercial port operations — receipt, handling and transport of goods and issuance of the required documents such as bills of lading, customs forms, letters of conveyance, etc.

In 1860, when the railway began operating, the D.B.S.R. and the Kustendje Harbour Co. opened a postal service for conveyance of mail between Constanta and Cernavoda. Until 1865 postage was paid in cash and a "20" marking (20 paras) or a manuscript note recorded the payment (Figure 1). A "15" was used for letters originating in Medjidie and going either way (Figure 2).

Figure 1

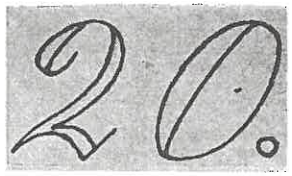

Figure 2

In the 1865 the D.B.S.R. issued a 20-paras adhesive stamp, a uniform fee for any distance along the Constanza-Cernavoda line. For mail addressed beyond either terminal point, additional postage had to be paid to cover charges for the remainder of the distance. Covers are known which also bear an Austrian Levant (Soldi) stamp, used by the Austrian consular post offices in Constantinople or Cernavoda or the Lloyd Agency office in Constanta (Figure 3).

The 20-paras D.B.S.R. stamp is printed in black on bluish green paper. Perforation varies from 8½ to 9½. According to the 1959 Romanian Catalogue of F. Konrad and M. Herscovici the perforation was made in a way that completely separated the stamps, so no pairs or blocks are known. The stamp, 18.5 mm wide and 22.25 mm high, pictures the old port of Constanta with hills in the background, (among them Avretuk-Tepe, known to shipping), a boat and a train. Above the hills is a Turkish crescent, a symbolic half moon with rays and a five-pointed star. The double frame line encloses the inscription "DBSR/LOCAL POST/ KUSTENDJE & CZERNAWODA /20 PARAS." In each of the four corners "2" is shown in the Arabic numeral form used by the Turks (Figure 4).

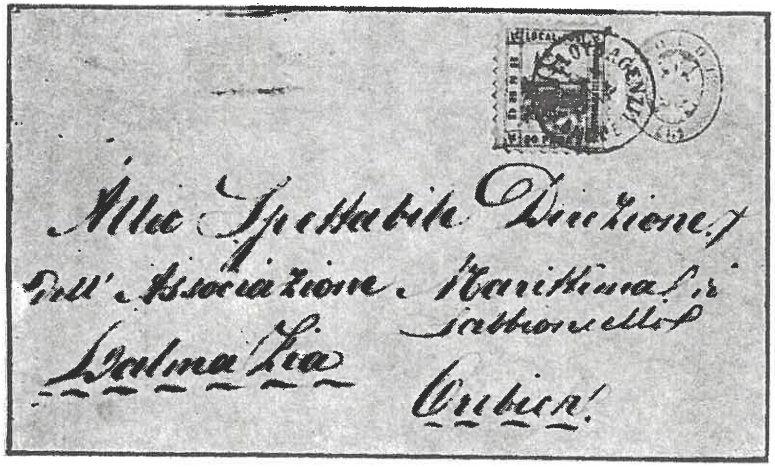

Figure 3

The adhesive stamp was printed by Jakob Boschan & Co., using of die prepared by M. Kaiser Co., both of Vienna. Between 1865 and 1869 a total of 5,000 stamps were printed in sheets of 100. The *Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps* by E. F. Hurt and L. N. & M. Williams states: "A proof is known in black on card, and in black on yellow gummed paper showing impressions of the early state."

Figure 4

Several reprints are known. These were printed by Kaiser at the request of stamp dealers from the worn original die on paper of varying thickness up to cardboard and in nine different colors — black, silver, bronze, yellow, green, blue, rose, etc. The reprints are fairly scarce. There are also forgeries, which vary in size from the originals.

Several different types of cancellations are known.

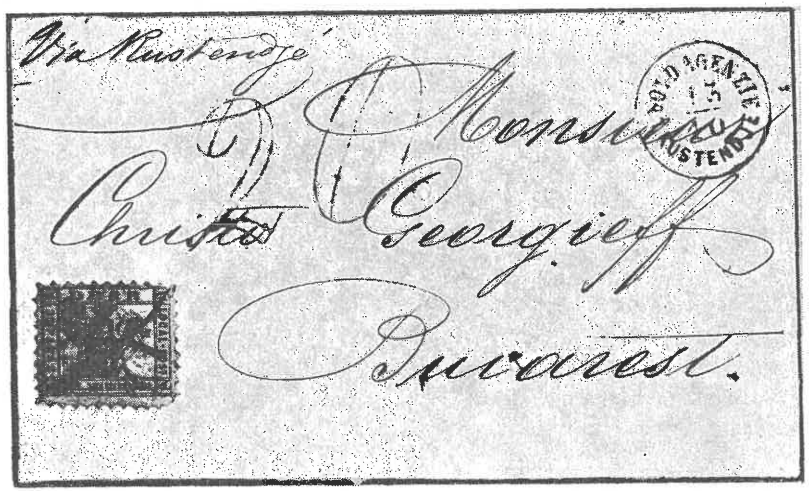

Figure 5

For letters to and from points along the D.B.S.B. the stamp was pen-canceled. The manuscript marking rarely ties the stamp to the cover, making expertizing difficult (Figure 5).

With an unframed, undated "MEDJIDIE" marking provided by the D.B.S.R. (Figure 6).

Figure 6

With the Austrian consular post office markings "KUSTENDJE," a 25 mm diameter single circle with a three-line date, the year being denoted by its last two numerals (Figure 7) and "CZERNAWODA," 23.5 mm in diameter single circle with a two line date (Figure 8).

Figure 7

Figure 8

With the Austrian Lloyd marking, a 23.5 mm single circle containing "LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE," day and month (Figures 3 and 5).

The D.B.S.R. stamp remained in use until 1871, according to published records. As it was little used, valid only for a small area and for only a short time, it remained unknown for a long time. Few have survived and even fewer have been recorded.

The D.B.S.R. also seems to have had an agency in Giurgevo (Giurgiu). A letter heading (Figure 9) and a seal (Figure 10) dated 1861 have been found on a letter from Giurgiu to Vienna.

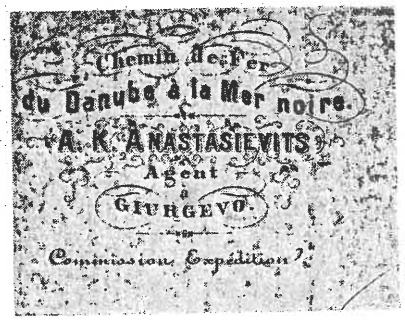

Figure 9

Figure 10

This study is based on material in the collection of L. Dengel of Sibiu, Romania. The article was procured for the *S.P.A. Journal* by George Pataki, editor of *Romanian Philatelic Studies*.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

A 624-page **ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74**, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

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C.M.I. Service on the Danube

Romania's French River Post

By Ludovic Dengel, str. Noua No. 39, 2400 Sibiu, Romania

In the 1857-1866 period the French steamship line *Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales* served ports of the Black Sea and those of the Danube (Sulina, Tulcea, Galati and Braila) where there were French consular posts.

Mail for the Black Sea ports reached Constantinople from Marseille each Sunday to connect with ships sailing on Monday. From Constantinople C.M.I. serviced two routes, each with two vessels. We are interested in the one that went to Romania. One ship left on Monday for Varna, Constanta, Sulina, Tulcea, Galati and Braila, reaching its destination on Friday and starting the return trip on Saturday. It arrived back at Constantinople on Wednesday, completing the round trip in 10 days. The second ship sailed on alternate Mondays.

From Constantinople mail including that collected in the Danube ports left for Marseille every Wednesday. The schedule is indicated in this time-table:

In May, 1857 C.M.I. concluded a mail-carrying agreement with the French postal administration. The volume of mail actually transported on the Danube was quite light, since the local population used mostly the Austrian or Russian posts.

According to Raymond Salles *(La Poste Maritime Francaise, Tome II: Les Paquebots de la Mediterrannee de 1837-1939)*, during the pre-stamp period postage fees were paid in cash. Markings of "10" or "20" were applied to the covers with handstamps, the "30" rate handwritten in ink. Later French postage stamps were used. To indicate the means of transport, a rectangular undated handstamp *MER NOIR* (Black Sea) was applied. Only one type is known.

Memo No. 57 of June 1857, which gave the schedule outlined above for the Romanian ports, also stipulated that since navigation on the Danube might be feasible only from April until November, the date of beginning the service would be decided each year jointly by the French postal authorities and officials of the line. During the winter, when the Danube was frozen, the mail was transported by other companies (Lloyd) to Constanta and forwarded by railroad.

The number of C.M.I. trips annually was approximately as follows:

1857	27	1862	38
1858	36	1863	43
1859	38	1864	46
1860	42	1865	39
1861	38	1866	35

Apparently the first ship to make the Constantinople run was the packet *Hermes*, which sailed from Constantinople July 13, 1857. One of the vessels later plying the Danube route that year was the *Pericles*.

The 1858 navigation season was opened on March 22 by the *Pericles*. The *Balkan* was sailing at the end of March. The arrival of the *Taurus* in August assured a regular schedule.

In 1859 the *Balkan* made 21 cruises and the *Taurus* 17. Navigation was interrupted on Dec. 12 because of ice on the river.

In 1860 C.M.I. cruises lasted from March 9 to Dec. 16.

In 1861 trips were made from March 9 to Dec. 16 by the *Balkan*, the *Taurus* and at times by the *Pericles*. In this year the C.M.I. ships reached Constantinople almost empty because passengers were afraid they would not have immediate connections with France. The ships were arriving on Thursday rather than Wednesday, missing the connection to Marseille. Passengers used other ships (Lloyd) to get from Constanta to Constantinople. On Sept. 10 the *Balkan* is known to have carried mail marked *MER NOIR* .

According to the C.M.I. register on Dec. 12, 1862, the *Taurus* was blocked by the ice at Sulina and forced to lay over.

The 1863 Navigational season opened on Feb. 15. That year besides the *Balkan* and *Taurus*, the *Oronte*, the *Mersey* and the *Cheliff* also served. Covers dated May 19, July 17 and Nov. 11, originating from Galati (Romania) or Varna (Bulgaria) are known with the *MER NOIR* marking.

Some of the 46 cruises in 1864 were made by vessels larger than the *Balkan* or the *Taurus*. The *MER NOIR* marking has been found on covers originating in Galati dated April 13, Oct. 25, Nov. 8 and Dec. 18.

The 1865 season began on March 12. The *Balkan* made many cruises, *Taurus* 15 and *Vatican* only one. Cholera broke out in Constantinople in July and a quarantine station was set up in Braila where mail was disinfected. In August and September cholera reached Braila and Galati and mail, merchandise and passengers were disinfected.

The 1866 season opened on Feb. 7. The *Balkan* made 14 cruises, the *Taurus* 17 and other larger ships four. Cholera broke out again in July and August. Due to the quarantine only one trip was made each 14 days.

Since little mail was carried, covers transported by C.M.I. vessels are very scarce. Despite all its years of operation, only two covers are known with the circular date stamp of the *Balkan* (one of them dated "16 Mars 59") and only 12 covers with the rectangular *MER NOIR* marking.

TWO UNRECORDED ESSAYS FOR THE 1920-1927 DEFINITIVES

DAVID GIJIRIGUIAN, New York City, New York

E. Cohen's work "Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbres-poste de Roumanie" (1945, Lisbon, Portugal) describes in chapter XXV (Projects pour des Emissions Ordinaires, 1920-1927, pp. 52-56) 12 types of essays made during 1920-1927 as possible replacements of the 1920-1922 definitive issues. This 13 stamp set of definitives is listed in catalogues as follows: Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 nos. 354-366; Scott nos. 248-260; Michel nos. 251-263.

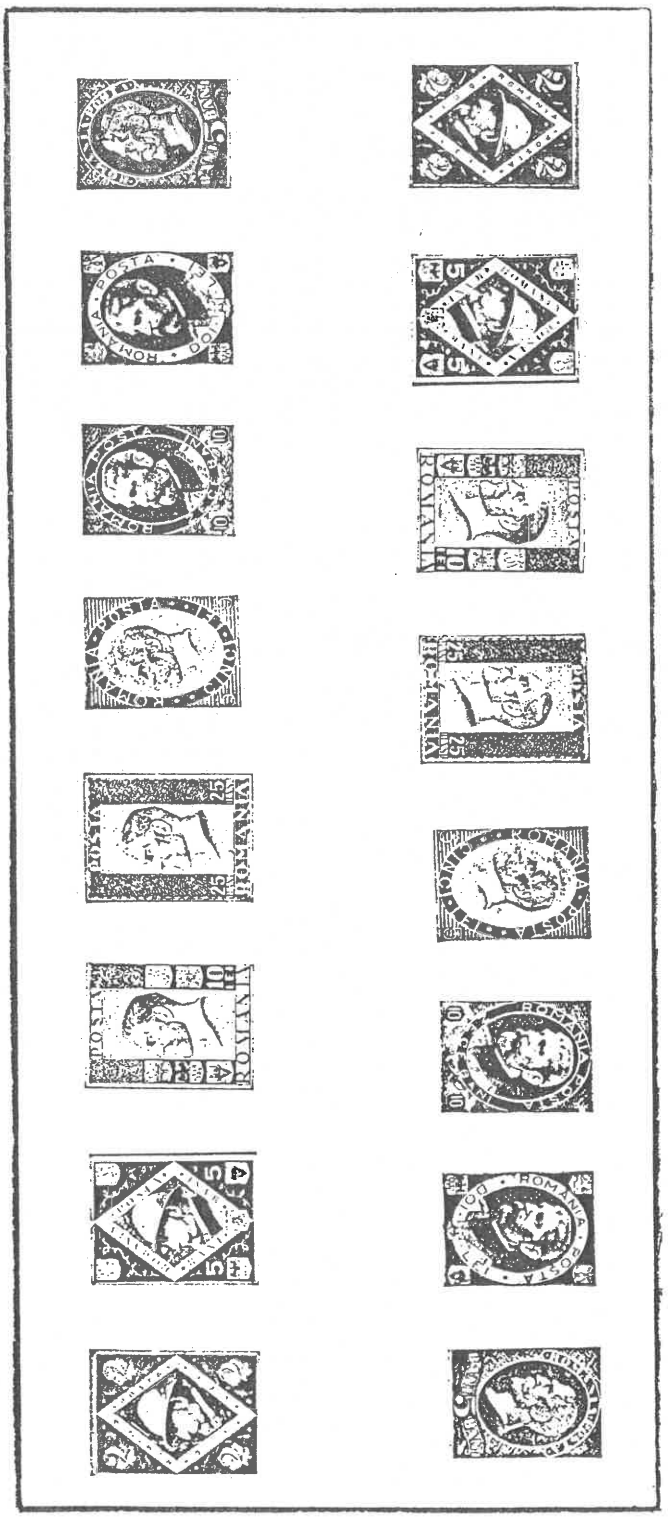
The 12 essay types, numbered XXV A - I, are illustrated by Cohen as Figs. 81-92. Due to their similarity in general appearance and size we believe that the first six essays (XXV A - C, Figs. 81-86) are actually one project, produced together on a single collective sheet. However, given the lack of material, we cannot at this time make the same assertion about XXV D - I, Figs. 87-92.

In fact, there are two more than the six types illustrated by Cohen as Figs. 81-86, and numbered as XXV A - C. We illustrate two essays which were not described by Cohen. The first one shows an essay on which King Ferdinand's bust appears in an oval surrounded by another oval with "ROMANIA. POSTA. CINCI. LEI" inscription. This essay shows similarities to Cohen's XXV A, Figs. 81-82 in that the King's effigy is in an oval, surrounded by another oval with text. The second essay shows a different design, again with King Ferdinand's head in an oval, and with "ROMANIA. POSTA" at the top of the oval, and "BANI 5 BANI" on the bottom.

The six essays presented by Cohen as well as the two essays presented here were printed in sheets of 16, composed of 2 rows of 8 different essays each, in tete-beche rows, with approximately 27 mm. blank space between rows. We illustrate such a collective essay in which the first four, the sixth and the seventh essay represent Figs. 81-84, 85-86 of Cohen, while positions 5 and 8 were unknown to Cohen.

The approximate size of each essays is 18x25 mm., with variations of 1-2 mm. The horizontal distance between each is approximately 9 mm. The collective essay sheet measures 237x100 mm. The collective essays in our possession are printed on yellow, green and light cream ("chamois" according to Cohen, or buff) paper. On yellow paper the following colors exist: dark blue, orange, red, grey green, brown, brown violet. On green paper, dark blue, red, green, grey green, brown, brown violet. On light cream paper: orange, green, red, dark blue, brown violet, dark green, grey green, grey brown. Of course, our description of colors is arbitrary, and even if some of the descriptions do not match Cohen's, they might still be the same.

We present these essays to the philatelic community, although we are well aware that there are still unknown facts about them. We do not know the exact year they were issued, if they were issued upon official request or were printed by private initiative, mainly for sale to collectors. However, we believe that the presentation of two heretofore unknown essays could be considered a modest contribution, and might stimulate further research.



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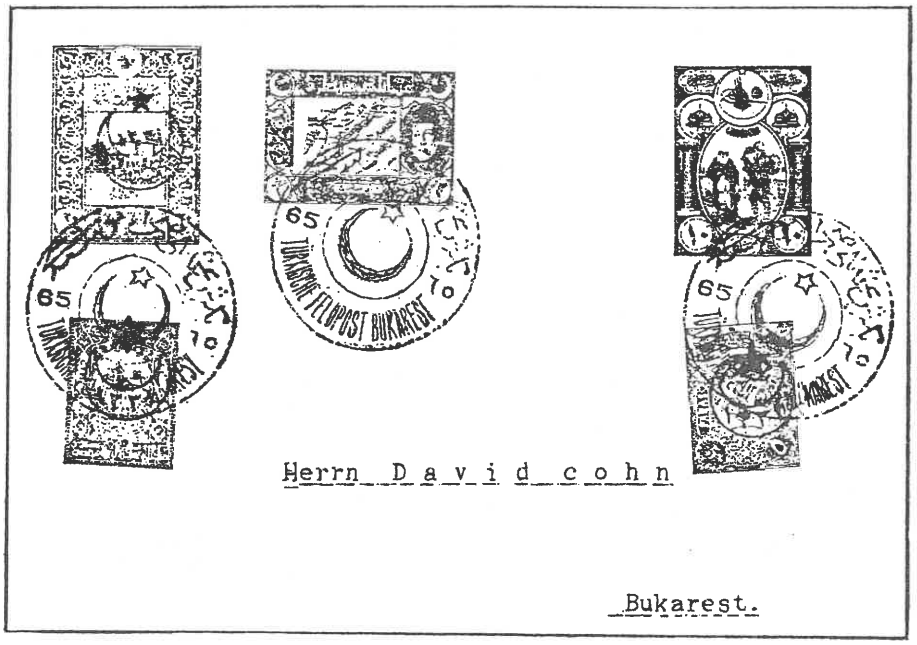
TURKISH FIELD POST CANCEL USED IN BUCHAREST

By George Pataki

During World War I, the Central Powers temporarily occupied the southern part of Romania (Walachia, Little Walachia and Dobrudja) and the Germans, the Bulgarians and the Turks established and operated field post offices there. The most active were those organized by the German armies. These used German stamps with special overprints (Scott nos. 3N1-3N16, 3NJ1-3NJ7, 3NRA1-3NRA8 and 3NRAJ1) and a variety of special cancels. The Bulgarian field posts were far less active. They used Bulgarian stamps overprinted vertically in cyrillic letters *POSHTA VI ROMANIA 1916 1918* and utilized their own special cancels.

The activity of the Turkish field posts in Bucharest is little known and items handled by them constitute great rarities. In a recent Roger Koerber (605 Northland Towers, W., Southfield, Mich. 48075) auction catalogue, one such cover was offered. It has five Turkish stamps obliterated by a rare Turkish field post marking and is addressed to *Herrn David Cohn, Bukarest.*



The cancellation consists of: crescent and a five-pointed star (in the center); a Turkish inscription in Arabic characters (at top) equivalent to the German *TURKISCHE FELDPOST BUKAREST* (at bottom); as well as the number *65* on the left and its Turkish counterpart on the right.

The cover is obviously *cancelled by favor* because, as addressed (without street and house number), it would have been undeliverable. However, it still has a documentational value (and implicitly great commercial value) to Romanian specialists.

HANDWRITTEN CANCELLATIONS ON AUSTRIAN STAMPS USED IN THE UNITED PRINCIPALITIES

Ladislau Rothman, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Chen, Israel

On stamps of the Austrian Levant used in the United Principalities, handwritten cancellations are sometimes found, showing only the name of the locality where posted, but not the date of mailing.

We illustrate here a 10 Soldi stamp cancelled with handwritten *a Galatz*, and with the triple circle no. 1 arrival marking of Vienna. This letter was mailed and handled during the Hungarian administration of the Galatz consular post office.

This item belongs to my collection. Dr. Nagy Ferenc, in his article *Magyar Posta Romaniaban, 1867-1869* (Hungarian Posts in Romania), published in *Filatelica* no. 1/1977, page 30, presents a stamp with the identical cancellation. Also Tchilinghirian & Stephen in their book *Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part Six* present (on page 434) a 15 Soldi stamp

Fig. 2

with the handwritten cancellation *aus Ibraila.*

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THE FIRST CONSTANTINOPLE-BUCHAREST AIR MAIL SERVICE 1919

MIHAIL POPOVICI, Str. Chopin No. 8, sc.C, et. II, apt. 47, 71454 Bucharest, Romania

After World War I, one of Romania's preoccupation was with development of air transport for passengers and mail. Nicolae Titulescu (1882-1941), one of Europe's most able diplomats in the period between the two world wars, in 1920 set up "Aviatia Civila" (Civil Aviation) and orgainzed "Compania Franco-Romana de Navigatia Aeriana" (French-Romanian Air Navigation Company) or CIDNA. This airline serviced the Bucharest-Constantinople portion of the PARIS-BUCHAREST-CONSTANTINOPLE route, inaugurated in Romania on September 12, 1922, as the obelisk located at the Baneasa (Bucharest) airport reminds us. Before 1921, when an agreement between the Turkish government and CIDNA was signed, mail transport between CONSTANTINOPLE and BUCHAREST generally had been achieved by sea and by rail. Romania, having always been a steppingstone between the West and the Near East, urgently needed to organize an air transport system to carry mail between Constantinople and Bucharest; from Bucharest this would be forwarded to Paris and other localities by the famous international train, the ORIENT-EXPRESS.

Fig. 2

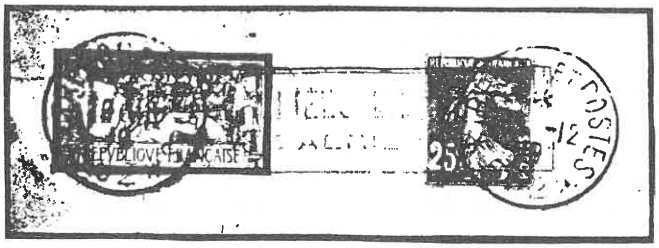
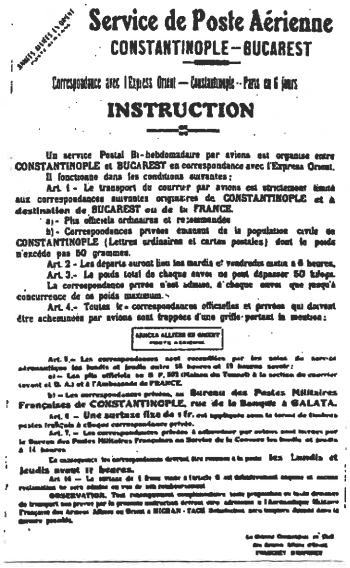


Fig. 3



Service de Poste Aérienne
CONSTANTINOPLE—BUCAREST

Correspondance avec l'Express Orient — Constantinople - Paris en 6 jours

INSTRUCTION

Un service Postal Bi-hebdomadaire par avions est organisé entre CONSTANTINOPLE et BUCAREST en correspondance avec l'Express Orient.
Il fonctionne dans les conditions suivantes:

Art. 1 - Le transport du courrier par avions est strictement limité aux correspondances suivantes originaires de CONSTANTINOPLE et à destination de BUCAREST ou de la FRANCE.

a) - Plis officiels ordinaires et recommandés

b) - Correspondances privées émanant de la population civile de CONSTANTINOPLE (Lettres ordinaires et cartes postales) dont le poids n'excède pas 50 grammes.

Art. 2 - Les départs auront lieu les mardis et vendredis matin à 6 heures.

Art. 3.- Le poids total de chaque avion ne peut dépasser 50 kilogs.

La correspondance privée n'est admise, à chaque avion que jusqu'à concurrence de ce poids maximum.

Art. 4.- Toutes les correspondances officielles et privées qui doivent être acheminées par avions sont frappées d'une grille portant la mention:

ARMEES ALLIEES EN ORIENT
POSTE AERIENNE

Art. 5.- Les correspondances sont reconduites par les soins du service aéronautique les lundis et jeudis entre 16 heures et 18 heures au plus tard:

a) - Les plis officiels au B. P. 923 (Station des Tramways à la section du courrier ouvert et B. A.) et à l'Ambassade de FRANCE.

b) - Les correspondances privées, au Bureau des Postes Militaires Françaises de CONSTANTINOPLE, rue de la Banque à GALATA.

Art. 6 - Une surtaxe fixe de 1 fr. est appliquée sous la forme de timbres postes traitant à chaque correspondance privée.

Art. 7. - Les correspondances privées à acheminer par avions sont triées par le Bureau des Postes Militaires Françaises au Service de la Censure les lundis et jeudis à 14 heures.

En conséquence les correspondances devront être remises à la poste les Lundis et Jeudis avant 12 heures.

Art. 16 - La surtaxe de 1 franc visée à l'article 6 est intégralement acquise et aucune réclamation ne sera admise en cas de non remboursement.

OBSERVATION. Tout renseignement complémentaire toute proposition en toute demande de transport non prévue par le présente instruction devront être adressés à l'Aéronautique Militaire Française des Armées Alliées en Orient à HICHAN - PACHA Stambulchi, sera toujours donné dans la mesure possible.

Le Général Commandant en Chef
des Armées Alliées d'Orient
FRANCHET D'ESPEREY

Fig. 1

In 1919, a military mail transport by air, between Constantinople and Bucharest was set up by the French Air Force which operated in the Near East and Middle East. Details on this air mail service can be found in the French magazines CHAMPION (October 1930 and May 1931) and L'ECHO DE LA TIMBROLOGIE (April 1934). A poster (Figure 1) with French language instructions for this air mail service, published in Constantinople in July 1919 (having been found by researchers in 1928) is illustrated there. Measuring 34 x 52 cm., it contains 7 articles regarding the mail transport itself and one more (Art. 16) with general stipulations. A translation follows:

AIR MAIL SERVICE CONSTANTINOPLE-BUCHAREST

Connecting with the Orient Express-Constantinople-Paris in 6 days

INSTRUCTIONS

A twice-a-week postal service by airplanes has been orgainzed between CONSTANTINOPLE and BUCHAREST, connecting with the Orient Express.

It functions subject to the following conditions:

Art.1.-Mail transport by airplanes is strictly limited to the following types correspondence originating in Constantinople with a destination of Bucharest or France.

a)-Ordinary and registered official envelopes.

b)-Private correspondence from the civilian population of Constantinople (Ordianry letters and postcards), with weight not to exceed 50 grams.

Art.2.-Departures will occur Tuesdays and Fridays at 6 A.M.

Art.3.-Total weight of each shipment cannot exceed 5 kgs. Private correspondence for each shipment will not be accepted after the maximum weight has been reached.

Art.4.-All official and private correspondence to be carried by airplanes will be marked by a canceller bearing the text:

ALLIED ARMIES IN THE EAST
AIR MAIL

Art.5.-Correspondence destined for air service is to be collected on Mondays and Thursdays between 18.00 and 19.00 hours, as follows:

a)-Official envelopes at Post Office #502 (Maison du Tunnel), at the courier department, and at the French Embassy.

b)-Civilian correspondence at the French Military Post Office of Constantinople Banque Street in Galata.

Art.6.-A fixed premium of 1 fr. in French postage stamps is to be affixed on all private correspondence.

Art.7.-Private correspoindence to be mailed by airplanes will be deposited at 14.00 hours on Mondays and Thursdays, at the Censor's Service of the French Military Post Office.

Therefore, correspondence must be deposited in the mail on Mondays and Thursdays before 13.00 hours.

Art.16.-The 1 franc premium mentioned in article 6 is final and no complaints for reimbursement will be accepted.

REMARKS. All supplementary information, suggestions and questions on transport not included in these instructions should be addressed to: French Air Force of the Allied Armies in the East at NICHANTASH. Satisfaction will be given within possible limits.

The Commander General
of the Allied Forces in the East
FRANCHET D'ESPEREY

Fig. 4

The upper-left corner of this poster once more shows the ARMEES ALLIES EN ORIENT/POSTE AERIENNE" marking, stamped diagonally without the rectangular frame. This air mail marking - according to some researchers - was designed by GERARD, a commander of a French battalion, at that time the commanding officer of the French Armies' Air Force in the Orient.

LE PILEUR, a member of the French Academy of Philately of Paris, in his booklet "CAHIERS PHILATELIQUE" (published in 1948), reports the existence of 2 types of this marking, one original (Figure 2) and the other counterfeit, which differ slightly from one another. Both are rectangular with a doubly lined frame and display the same text on 2 lines. The original measures 79 x 22 mm. while the counterfeit, with much more regular letters, is 77 x 18 mm. Furthermore, Le Pileur mentions that the marking was applied on all mail carried by plane, from Constantinople to Bucharest or Paris via Bucharest, in either black or dark violet. To support this, Le Pileur shows that the May 1947 issue of the French magazine, "L'Officiel de la Philatelie" ilustrates a cover flown via this route, dated December 22, 1919, bearing such a black markings. Correspondence bearing these air markings is very scarce and beacuse it has been counterfeited, should be carefully examined or expertized.

While the aforementioned publications state that this service started in July 1919 and lasted until September 1919, cancellation on such items, seen in the collections of various philatelists, show that it lasted as late as December 1919 (December 22, 1919 on Figure 3).

Well known researchers such as S. STROWSKI in "Les Estampilles Postales Francaises au XXe Siecle" (L'Echo de la Timbrologie, No. 884/1931), LUCIANO BOZZETTI in "La Posta dell'Armee d'Orient" (Il Collezionista, No. 5/1968) and Col. C. DELOSTE in "Histoire Postale et Militaire de l'Armee d'Orient, 1915-1920" (Paris, 1946) state that, in general, correspondence, both official and private (franked and with air mail surcharge) originating from Constantinople and dispatched by air mail, bears a special circular postmark with the code number of the French Military Post Office in Constantinople (Figure 4) as well as the special rectangular air mail marking (Figure 2). Official and civilian mail originating from other French military post offices in the Near East which was sent to Constantinople for forwarding by plane to Bucharest or Paris via Bucharest (or other localities), already bore a postmark with the code number of the originating military post office (Figure 5). These, of course, received only the special rectangular air mail marking in Constantinople.

The postage rates for private correspondence were: 25¢ for a simple letter, 40¢ for a registered letter, and 1 frank for the air mail premium. The official mail was sent unfranked.

In Col. Deloste's collection several items from the European zone of military operations can be found. Figure 5 shows one of these, a piece of official mail (hence, unfranked) sent by air to the French Mission in Bucharest (Capt. Bergeret) which displays the rectangular air mail marking as well as a "526" circular postmark, dated October 11, 1919. A civilian letter, franked with five 25¢ French ("semeuse"-sower) stamps, all obliterated in black by the rectangular air cancellation, and separately postmarked with the "506" circular marking, dated 7-8 19 (August 7, 1919) reposes in my collection. The "506" code number belonged to the French military post office in MUDHROS (MOUDROS), on the island of Lemnos, in the Aegean Sea. This cover, also bears a marking unknown to me: "NO" in a triangle, as is shown in Figure 6.

Charilaos M. Binos in his booklet "The NO Initials as Censorship Indication During the First World War, and their Interpretation" (Athens, 1973) describes various types of "NO" markings, listing the opinions of various researchers (col. C. Deloste, Comm. Chr. J. Soliotis, Dr. Karl K. Wolter, Stephen Macrymichalos, Dr. U. Bellos, A.L. Kennedy) regarding the meaning of this marking and finally giving his own interpretation. Unfortunately none of the presented arguments can be proven.

The special circular dated postmarks

Fig. 5

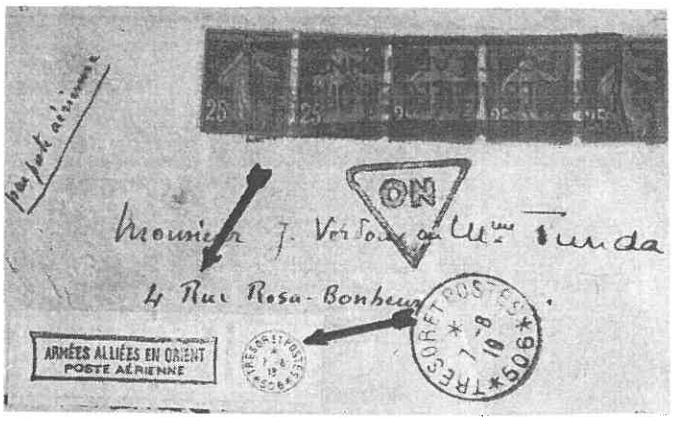


Fig. 6

with code numbers were applied by the French field post offices on both official and civilian mail. These special cancellers were kept under lock and key and the clercs who handled them were responsible. At the beginning of the war they were 22-23 mm. in diameter, later 26-27 mm. The text at the top reads: "TRESOR ET POSTES", while the bottom shows, between 2 small stars, a 3 digit code number; the 3-line center displays a small star/day and month/and below them the last 2 digits of the year, all in Arabic numerals (Figure 7).

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Strowski indicates that 500-series code numbers were assigned to the French military post offices in the European zone, while those in the 600-series were used by such offices in Near East and Middle East. Bozzetti ads that the code number of the 600-series were first used in 1917. They have also stated that the last 2 digits of these code numbers identify the number of the military post office. These offices were usually not tied down to a specific locality, but were used in the various places where the corresponding troops were relocated. On the other hand, some military post offices are known to have changed their code number when they were moved. As an example, in the cancellation with "502", the numeral "5" represents the operations zone, Europe; the last two digits "02" indicates the number of a particular military post office. The "502" cancellation was used in 1919 in Constantinople. Some code numbers also had letters indicating military post offices subordinate to main post offices. thus,the "502" office (Constantinople) had dependent offices "502C" (quartered in Gallipoli) and "502D" (in KILID-BAHR), both in the European zone of operations. Other code numbers reported for the European zone are as follows: "506" for MUHDROS; "512" in CORFU; in Romania: "520" in TIMISOARA, "520B" in ARAD, "528" in CONSTANTA, etc. Code numbers for post offices of military bases were meant to keep secret the locations, movements, and destinations of armies in those territories.

The "TRESOR ET POSTES" postmark with the "525" code number (Figure 7) has been found on some Romania stamps, in blocks of four. These stamps, in use between 1917 and 1919, include the 1909/1914 Carol typographed 1 BAN, black with red "FPTT" overprint (Scott #245, Yvert #258A); 5 BANI, yellow green (Figure 8) and 10 BANI rose violet, both with black 'FPTT" overprint (Scott #246, Yvert #258B, and Scott #247, Yvert #259), as well as the 5 BANI yellow green (Scott #241, Yvert #260) and 10 BANI rose violet (Scott #242 Yvert #261), both with black "1918" overprint; on the later the postmark is without "525" (Figure 9). The "525" marking has also been found on the 5 BANI dark gray postal tax stamps of the 1917/18 issue, with red "MViR" overprint (Scott #3NRA3, Yvert #18) in blocks of 4 (Figure 10). Most of these have been described by M. Popovici and T. Comanescu in Filatelia, No. 2/1966 and by M. Popovici, T. Comanescu and Gr. Racoviceanu in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie", Nos. 1353 and 1354/1966.

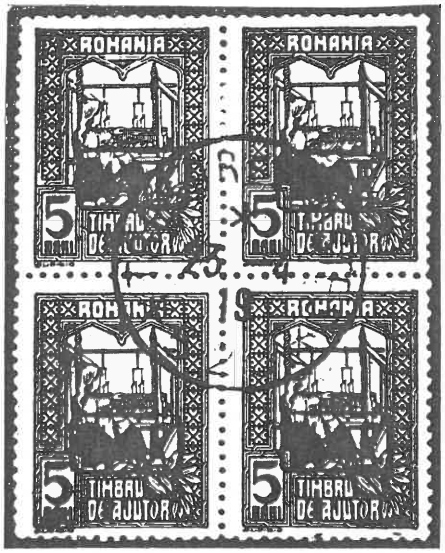


Fig. 9

In correspondence I had with Col. Deloste (of France), he stated that despite Strowski's claim the "525" marking was used by a French military post office in Bucharest, after more than 30 years of research, Deloste could not verify this claim. Both Beloste and Bozzetti maintain that the "525" marking was initally assigned in November 1917 to the French military post office in TARANTO (Italy) and was later replaced ther by the "603" marking. Deloste presumes that after the "525" marking became unused, it was reassigned to one of the French military post office located in Bulgaria. Furthermore, he states that it is possible that this office was relocated in the spring of 1919 to Bucharest and continued using the same "525" marking. Nevertheless, Deloste considers the application of the "TRESOR ET POSTES" postmarks on Romanian stamps a philatelic fantasy, especially because these stamps with such postmarks, have never been found on postally used covers.

After Romania was liberated from German occupation, French armies were relocated from Bulgaria to Romania (December 1, 1918) under the command of Gen. BERTHELOT. A movie cameraman operating in Bucharest, Ionescu-Cioc who was also a philatelist, was friendly with employees of the French Mission in Bucharest. He obtained, from a clerc of the French military post office, permission to apply on current Romanian stamps, as souvenirs, some of the "TRESOR ET POSTES" cancellers (such as those with and withou the "525" code number). This happened on two occasions: on February 22, 1919 (Figure 9) and on April 23, 1919 (Figures 8 and 10). Therefore, we may conclude that the French military post office operating in Bucharest in 1919 did use "525" cancellers and that Romanian stamps bearing such markings were cancelled to order.

It would be interesting to find private correspondence used between December 1918 and June 28, 1919 (signing of the Peace Treaty in Versailles) with French stamps obliterated "525" or even official mail (without stamps) bearing this marking. These would be solid proof that a French military post office indeed operated in Bucharest when the French armies entered Romania's capital, and that the "525" marking was used there.

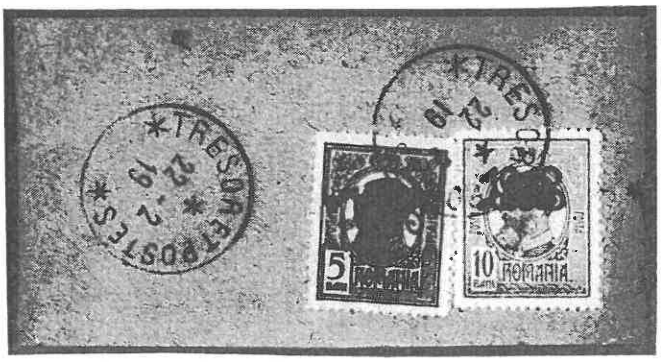


Fig. 10

R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1979, III., W.Z.

IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS SURROUND RAILWAY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENCE

Reprint from LINN'S STAMP NEWS, December 25, 1978

by WING CMDR. R.F. BULSTRODE, London, England

After the end of World War I, transport and distribution of goods in central and eastern Europe were chaotic. Most areas had acute shortages of some essential commodities and simultaneously a glut of other goods.

But the railways were almost powerless to keep the necessary transport moving, as well-armed gangs of bandits were holding up goods trains and leaving them rifled and badly damaged, particularly near the new frontiers of countries which had not yet developed the authority or power to cope with the problem.

Switzerland was hard hit by this situation as it was faced with two tasks — to restore its international trade which had been devastated by the war and to repatriate its citizens who had been isolated in other countries and were still unable to return.

The solution was found by providing armed Swiss Army escorts for trains from Switzerland to Austria, Czechoslovokia, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania and back.

The Swiss forces, having been neutral, were acceptable in all the countries in which they traveled. Being well trained, well armed, including antiaircraft weapons depressed to deal with ground targets, and being volunteers and not war weary, they rapidly earned the respect of the bandits.

Only one Swiss-guarded train was attacked. The attempt was noisily repulsed with the Swiss firing a lethal shot, and no loss ever occurred from any of the Swiss Army's trains.

The Swiss escorts traveled in considerable discomfort as the federal railways, fearing the loss of their rolling stock, provided the oldest means possible.

In wet weather, the troops had to take refuge under tarpaulins and umbrellas in their closed freight trucks.

The philatelic interst of these voyages, some of which took months to complete, centers on the envelopes and post cards sent back to Switzerland by crew members, both to official and private addresses.

Such items should always have been franked with the postage stamp of the country in which they were posted, regardless of any special train stamps which may have been issued during the particular trip. But odd things sometimes happened.

The route normally followed by the trains from Poland (Polenzug) was from Cuchs (St. Gallen) on the Swiss-Austrian border via Innsbruck-Salzburg-Linz-Vienna-Teschenstochau-Lodz to Warsaw.

The Romanian trains followed the same route to Vienna, then Raab-Budapest-Grosswardein-Klausenburg-Tovis-Schaessburg-Kronstadt-Ploesti to Burcharest.

Now for the first complication. Many of these names, and names of places from which correspondence was posted en route, have changed once, twice or even thrice since 1919.

These changes are due to political and linguistic reasons as frontiers and governments altered.

The second complication is the peculiar mixture of franking, cancellation and registration labels to be found on a single item.

Romanain franking with Hungarian cancellation and Romanian franking with Hungarian registration labels are accounted for by the fact that, for a time, the Romanians were occupying part of Hungary and provided their own stamps but evidently used Hungarian postal staff and equipment.

The Romanians do not appear to have had registration labels in their own country, and their cancellations are usually blurred, often illegible.

Hungarian cancellations are, by contrast, generally beautifully clear.

A card bearing a Hungarian stamp with a Bern circular datestamp is probably due to its not being canceled in Subotica (Yugoslavia), where it was posted, and the Swiss official's using his normal *"chop"*, instead of the correct double-circle dumb killer, which was properly used in other cases with Romanian and Austrian franking.

A cover from the 25th Romania train, originating apparently in Vienna, bears only Swiss stamps (total 30 centimes) and a Bern registration label, as well as a Bern Bundeshaus cancellation.

Was this carried by the escort commander to oblige the official of the Swiss Embassy, Vienna, and then posted in Bern? Certainly, postal regulations were broken.

The third complication is how to recognize guarded train correspondence. The wording, style,, size and color of handstamps used kept changing.

The only train to use a green ink pad seems to be the 5th Poland train, with a straightline *"Escorte Commerciale Suisse"* and a Swiss cross at each end, 6 centimeters long.

The escort commander's chop had *"le Commandant"* immediately below the main inscription.

The most popular chop used on many trains bore *"Escorte Commerciale Militaire Suisse"* in two lines surmounted by the Swiss cross in rays, length 6.1cm., in mauve or blue.

Late in its life, one of this type was modified by the excision of the word *"MILITAIRE,"* leaving a lopsided effect.

The Swiss cross in rays appears above the legend "ESCORTE COMMERCIALE SUISSE" on this chop. The word "MILITAIRE" has been omitted.

EARLY NAMES	LATER NAMES	LOCATION
PRERAU	PREROV	160 km NNE of VIENNA
TSCHENSTOCHAU	CZESTOCHOWA	110 km S of LODZ
LODZ		110 km SW of WARSAW
RAAB	GYÖR	110 km sw of BUDAPEST
GROSSWARDEIN	NAGYVARAD, ORADEA MARE	55 km SSE of BEKESCSABA
KLAUSENBURG	KOLOZSVAR, CLUJ	260 km NW of PLOESTI
TÖVIS	TEIUS	80 km S of CLUJ
SCHAESSBURG	SIGHISOARA	90 km NW of BRAŞOV
KRONSTADT	ORASUL STALIN, BRASOV	85 km NNW of PLOEŞTI
PLOESTI		60 km N of BUCHAREST
BISCHOFSHOFEN		44 km SE of SALZBURG
ZEMUN	SEMLIN	Across river from BELGRADE
BROD	BOSNIAN BROD	210 km WNW of BELGRADE
PURKERSDORF		14 km W of CENTRAL VIENNA
ZAGREB		190 km WNW of BROD
SZABADKA	SUBOTICA	170 km SSE of BUDAPEST
KIRÁLIHIDA	BRUCK	ESE of VIENNA, now Austria
SZOLNOK		90 km ESE of BUDAPEST
BÉKÉSCSABA		180 km SE of BUDAPEST
ORŞOVA		170 km E of BELGRADE
TEMESVÁR	TIMISOARA	120 km NNE of BELGRADE
MARCHEGG		35 km E of VIENNA

Another type had, in one line, a star containing the Swiss cross at each end and *"Schweiz Militarische Handels-Escorte."* Sometimes the *"Rumanienzug"* train number was added below.

The 5th Romanian train made up two straightline chops, one in German and one in French, giving the train number.

The least common seems to be an oval type, 4.7cm. long, bearing *"Schweizerische Handelseskorte"* in the outer oval and the Swiss cross in rays in the center.

The 10th Romania train has a chop with *"Schweizerische Handelseskorten,"* 7.1cm. long, above *"Rumanienzug No. 10"* and surmounted by a plain shield bearing the Swiss cross, all in red.

A smaller chop was introduced, apparently late in 1920. It is 4.6cm. long, reading *"Schweizer Warentransport"* below the Swiss cross in rays, usually in blue.

A French-language version also exist — *"Transport de Commerce Suisse"* — of the same size.

Another one, looking as if it were made up of movable type, reads *"Schweizer Handelsescorte,"* 6.4cm., as the top line, and *"Rumanienzug No."* below, leaving space for the manuscript insertion of the train number, used on Romania train No. 22.

Another chop, also of movable type, reads *"Transport Nr. 25,"* 6.3cm. long, with marks below the figures suggesting they were shifted for use on other trains.

Many trains seem to have had no rubber stamp and relied on manuscript notes on covers to identify their sendings. Private post cards can sometime only be identified by the messags written on them — the ones on the return journey usually being the most enthusiastic.

The fourth complication is to work out what trains went where, the approximate trip timings, name sof escort commanders, and any other details.

Three trains issued special trains stamps with no franking value. These were No. 5 Poland train, Escort Cmdr. Capt. Fred Bieri, stamps printed at Warsaw; No. 10 Romania train, same escort commander, printed at Bucharest; and No. 12 Romania tran, Escort Cmdr. Oberleutnant Robert Bieri (not related to Capt. F. Bieri), printed in Bucharest.

These are the sole trains whose correspondence, on the return journey only, may be identified by special sticker.

Official records in Switzerland, to help us with these trains, are almost completely lacking. The surviving military records are of no help to us, and the chances of anything useful being available in the Federal Civil Archives or the federal railways records are extremely slim.

My main sources of information have been the late Maj. Fred Bieri (Capt. Bieri of the trains), whose friendly and acknowledgeable help was quite invaluable, and the few collections I have been able to locate and examine.

A Hungarian friend, who was living in the right area at the time, gave valuable aid in place identification and even caused my own collection to become more surprising.

Of the three train stamps, No. 5 Poland train issued plain typeset stamps in red on yellow paper reading *"5 POLENZUG WARSAWA JULI 1919"* and with the Swiss cross in red.

No. 5 Poland train issued plain typeset stamps in red on yellow paper with a red Swiss cross.

These were printed in Warsaw late in July 1919, and ones used on cover without any national franking were canceled at Warsaw *"by favor"* and could not have been carried by the postal service.

Maj. Bieri admitted to me that someone in the train crew had been naughty in this respect.

The 10th and 12th Romania trains both had stamps lithographed at Bucharest by Carol Gobh-Rasidescu. Both are two-colored, the first in red and green reading *"Rumanenzug No. 10 Bukarest Dez 1919"* and the second, *"12 Rumanenzug Nov. 1919-Febr. 1920 Bukarest"* in red and gray.

The latter train stayed so long at Bucharest that many of the stamps bear manuscript or typescript overprints of later month.

The 10th and 12th Romania trains had stamps lithographed at Bucharest by Carol Gobh-Rasidescu.

The addressing of official letters from the trains of Bern varies considerably but is usually quite straightforward with only the letters "WRT," which sometimes occur, causing a puzzle.

They stand for "Warren und Ruckwanderer Transport ' showing that the trains were being used for transport of goods and repatriated Swiss citizens.

For the earlier journeys, which bristled with unforeseen problems, the escort commanders were Swiss Army captains.

As the organization became smoother, first lieutenants (Oberleutnant were entrusted with the task, and finally, lieutenants took over.

In parallel with the military, civilian guards were also operating, sometimes in charge of one truck only. These men were not always very successful, lacking either the cash or the initiative to lubricate the system with adequate donations to (sometimes) highly acquisitive Balkan authorities

The record was probably held by a civilian whose train remained stationary at Kronstadt for over four months.

TRAIN No.	ESCORT COMMANDER	Dates out and back to Buchs	1st & last known dates on route
5 POLAND	Capt. F. Bieri	7.22.1919-8.19.1919	
5 ROMANIA	?		8.14.1919, 9.12.1919
8 "	Capt. Holzach		
9 "	Capt. Gaffner		
10 "	Capt. F. Bieri	10.26.1919-1.11.1919	
11 "	Capt. Holzach		
12 "	Oblt. R. Bieri	Sept.1919-April 1920	
13 "	Oblt. Charles Dubois		
17 "	Oblt. Kehr		
18 "	Lt. A. A. Haas		
20 "	Lt. Bucher		11.18.1920, 11.29.1920
21 "	?		11.24.1920, 12. 2.1920
22 "	Lt. A. A. Haas		12.22.1920, 1.26.1921
25 "	?		Posted in Bern 3.10.21
27 "	A. Kellenberger		6.19.1921
30 "	A. Kellenberger		9.12.1921
33 "	A. Kellenberger		

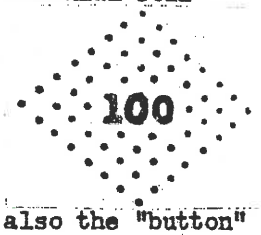
R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1978, II, m.3.

The GREEK Post Offices on ROMANIAN soil,

by **Emilios D. Xanthopoulos**, 94-28 40th Rd, Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373, USA.

According to official documents, four Greek post offices functioned on Romanian soil (in the provinces of Moldavia and Walachia) during the 19th century:

GALATZION	post	office	number	100
IBRAILA	"	"	"	101
BOUKOURESTI	"	"	"	102
SULINA	"	"	"	133



They used numeral postmarks, circular date postmarks, and in Bucharest also the "button" type. The numeral postmark, introduced in 1861, is rhombic, each side about 18 mm long. It has 64 dots (8 by 8), minus the ones covered by the post office number. The circular date postmark, 21/12 mm, were introduced at the opening of these post offices.

The post offices of GALATZION, IBRAILA and BOUKOURESTI officially were established in July 1857 by a Royal Decree dated July 9, 1857, and that of SULINA in June 1871 by a Royal Decree dated June 30, 1871.

The BOUKOURESTI post office closed by the end of 1863 by the Royal Decree of December 18, 1863, those of GALATZION and IBRAILA in 1867, and that of SULINA in August 1875 by the order of the Greek Postmaster General, dated August 7, 1875.

Of the SULINA post office no letters were found - to our knowledge - up to date to establish that this post office functioned properly. They are known only two or three stamps with numeral postmarks which are very qeuestionable. At that time SULINA belonged to Turkey.

Of the GALATZION post office very few numeral postmarks are known and that one stamp with the circular dated postmark and the words GALATZION (MOLDAVIA) on a 5 lepta large Hermes head was found in 1931 and we presume it was the one mentioned to had been in the STRANGE Greek collection (sold by Robson Lowe on May 22, 1957).

The late Peter Binicos in "The 19th century Greek post offices in Moldavia & Wallachia", published in Philotelia (journal published in Greece, in Greek and English) noted: "A circular date stamp on piece, dated 1 June 64 with a strip of five 20 lepta Athens print 1872-67 affixed as postage dues on arrival and the circular date stamp LAMIA 13 June 64, was sold in the Robson Lowe sale on March 12, 1958".

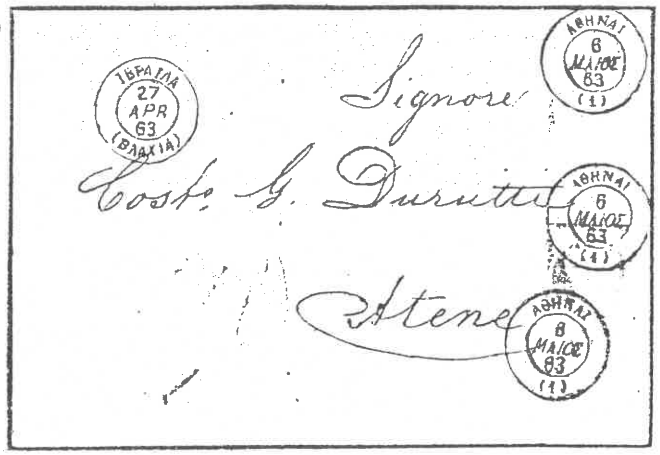
The postmarks of IBRAILA, though rare, are better known as they exist on stamps and entires from 1858 up to 1865.

Peter Binicos in the above mentioned article stated: "In Philotelia No.336 (March-April 1956), a photograph and description of an entire of the pre-stamp period from the ROTH collection was published. The entire was mailed from Syra in July 29, 1858 to Signore Chr. Giorgi. On the back there is a transit circular date stamps IBRAILA (VLACHIA) 6 Aug. 58 and arrival circular date stamp BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) 12 Aug. 58. Along with the great interest of the discovery, great confusion was created mixed with scepticism about the authenticity of the rare postmarks IBRAILA and BOUKOURESTI, due to the fact that the printer had the notion to retouch the cliche and by mistake made all the circular postmarks, dated 1853 instead of 1858 (Philotelia No.337/1956). From information submitted by Mr. Roth and from new information coming from a Sofia, Bulgaria letter received by Mr. Drossos (Philotelia No.339/1956) corrections were made in the next issues, restoring the reality and the authenticity of this rare entire.

At the end of this letter, additional new information is furnished as follows: The letter which Mr. Drossos received from his Sofia correspondent contained the unexpected information that the writer of this letter had in his collection an entire from Syros also addressed to the same person, Chr. Giorgi. The letter carries the circular date stamp of Syros 3 March 1859 and red colored Π.Ε.Δ (Paid dues). On the back, to the left, and on the flap, there is a transit circular date stamp IBRAILA (VLACHIA) dated 20 March 1859. It is a clear strike except in the upper part where the name IBRAILA is slightly oily. The color of the ink is green-blue (the green more prevailing). On the upper part and to the right there is arrival circular date stamp BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) dated 24 March 1859. It is extremly clear. There are no oily stains, and, contrary to the IBRAILA stamp, the color of the ink is blue-green with the blue strongly prevailing.

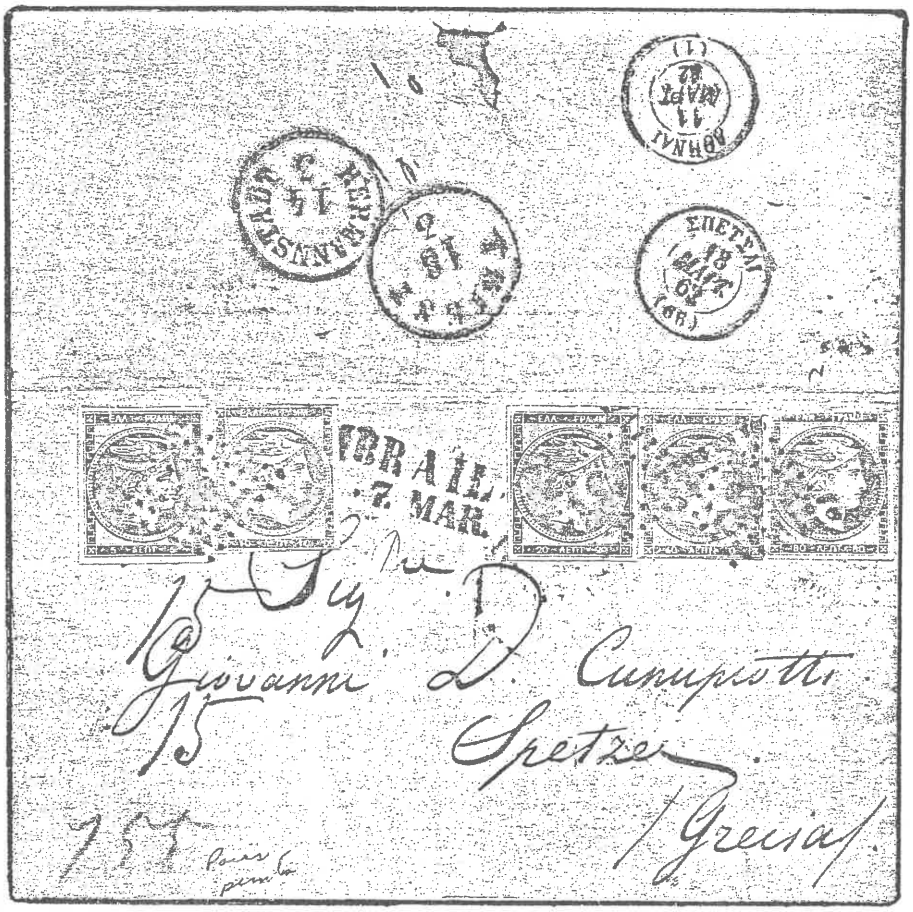
In "Historical details of the Greek post offices in Moldavia-Walachia and Soulina" by Sophocles G. Nicolaides (reviwed in Romanian Philatelic Studies No.2/1977) the author presnts an entire with an IBRAILA (VLACHIA) circular date stamp and describes it as follows: "I reproduce above the photograph of a further letter, which, as far as I know, has not been pu-

blished in Greece. This letter belongs to a foreign collector. This letter was posted in Braila without payment of postage, with Athens as its destination. It bears the despatch stamp of IBRAILA, 27th April, 63, and the stamp of arrival in Athens where postage stamps worth Drs. 1.10 were affixed under date of 6th May 1863".



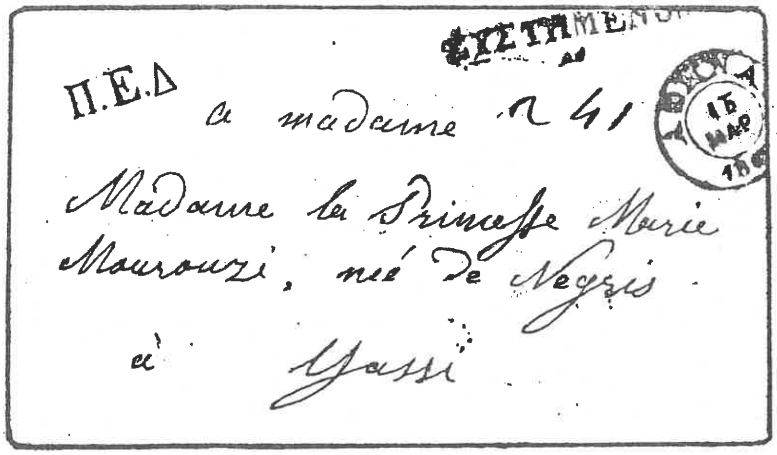
Another reference to the IBRAILA postmark was made in the same work when the author stated: "This is confirmed, at least in the case of Braila, by the existence of an envelope carrying the "IBRAILA", postmark 10th October, 1857, of which a photograph was published by the late Mr. Al. Argyropoulos in "Philotelia" No.220/1, May-June 1943".

In the collection of Philip LEFKOWITZ of New York, there is a beautiful, maybe unique entire (see below) mailed at IBRAILA to SPETSAI. In the front top middle there is an horizontal, two lines Austrian postmark IBRAIL(A) 7 MAR. and the 5,10,20, 40 and 80 lepta Paris print, large Hermes stamps with numeral postmarks of SPETSAI (66). On the back, the transit postmarks of Hermannstadt 14/3 (located in Transylvania today is called SIBIU), TRIEST 18/3, ATHINAI 11 March 1862 with the post office number (1), and the SPETSAI arrival postmark 18 March 1862 with the post office number (66). The apparent discrepancy in the dates is due because the difference in the old Julian and the new Gregorian calendars. The two lines IBRAILA postmark is mentioned in Part.6, Fig.728, page 447, of the "Austrian Post Offices Abroad" by Tschilinghirian & Stephen.



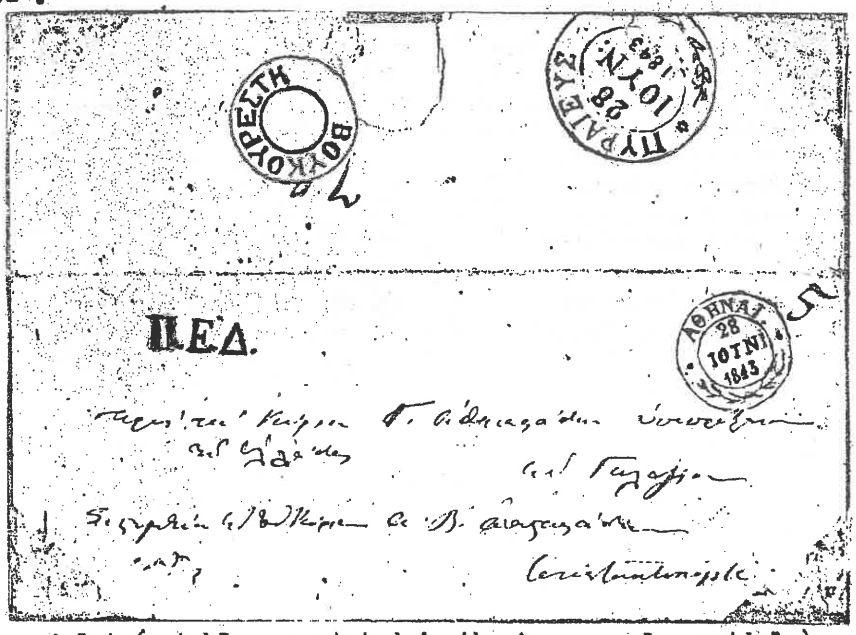
In my collection I have a small cover addressed to MADAME LA PRINCESSE MARIE MOUROUZI, NEÉ DE NEGRIS A YASSI. It was mailed REGISTRED (has a SYSTIMENON blue-green line postmark and the number 241 in black ink) from Athens (blue-green circular date postmark ATHINAI 15 March 1857). It has a red Π.Ε.Δ (paid dues for abroad) postmark and on the back a two line CZERNOWITZ 8 APR. postmark and the lower half of an Austrian (to my opinion) postmark. Constantin MOUROUZI and his son Alexander MOUROUZI, Phanariot Greeks, ruled Moldavia and Walachia in the name of the Ottoman Empire, on and off, from 1777 to 1807.

The postmarks of BOUKOURESTI are very rare and an entire in the ARGYROPOULOS collection dated 23 Jan. 1863 with the 10, 20 and 80 lepta Paris print stamps on which both the numeral and the circular date postmarks with BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) are, is still considered unique.



One of the most interesting subjects in this field is the "button" type, dateless, BOYKOYPESTH (Bucharest) postmark. As was mentioned, the BOUKOURESTI post office was officially established in July 1857. Yet we know about a Greek postmark used in Bucharest long before that date. Peter Binicos described it in his article "The prestamp Button type stampmark of the Greek post office of Bucarest" in Philotelia No.372: "Indeed the above postmark exists and is identical with the known Greek prestamp postmarks. They are double circle postmarks, diameter 21 mm externally and 12 mm internally, with the name of the town (BOYKOYPEΣTH) between the two circles and the center blank (no date). The letters of the name are of the Roman type. We have in our collection the earliest postmarks of the "button" type as follows: KYNAITHA (later KALAVRYTA) 1837, GYTHION 1838, KALAMAI 1839, and TRIFYL, PYLOS (later PYRGOS) 1840. In the J. S. Strange sale of May 22, 1959 (Robson Lowe), there were: 1) Lot 246, printed circular from Athens to Bucarest dated 1852 carrying arrival pre-stamp type "button" postmark BOYKOYPEΣTH and 2) Lot 245 cover from Athens addressed to Mr. G. Athanassiades, vice-consul of Greece, at Galatz via Constantinople carrying on the front small double circle pre-stamp postmark ATHINAI dated 28 June 1843 and Π.Ε.Δ. On the back, there is transit postmark PYRAIEYS dated 28 June 1843, also transit type "button" postmark BOYKOYRE TH. There were no other inscriptions of any kind on arrival to Galatz. According to the above information, it is evident that in Bucarest there was existing a Greek post office operating many years before 1857, possibly before 1840.

NOTE OF PHILOTELIA: The conclusions arrived at by Mr. P. Binicos as regards the date of establishment of the post office of Bucharest find support in two photographs, published in No.370 issue of "Philotelia" (page 138), showing two covers of the pre-stamp period bearing the "button" type seal BOYKOYPEΣTH. These covers are part of the collection of the distinguished Lisbon collector Mr. Eduardo Cohen. A date is marked on each of these covers. The date at the upper right side of the first cover is: "1843". The one appearing at the upper left side of the second cover is : August 1852".



In "More notes on the prestamp period of the Greek button type postmark of Bucarest" published in Philotelia, Peter Binicos illustrated and described the above mentioned cover, sent from Athens to vice-consul Athanassiades, as follows: "Thus for the records, I would like to give below the actual information for this rare letter. It is a small letter carrying in the front the pre-stamp period postmark (Laurel type) ATHINAI 28 June 1843, colour blue-green. (No S10 Raftopoulos Catalog, and red Π.Ε.Δ (paid overseas dues). On the back is a large double-circle Laurel type prestamp postmark PYRAIEUS 28 June 1843, colour black, No. S3 Raftopoulos Catalog, and a transit button type postmark BOYKOYPEΣTH, colour deep violet (not blue as stated in the Argyropoulos article). The letter, in all probability, was dispatched by sea as far as Constantinople and from there to Bucarest through the Russian postal service by land. Another unreported detail is that the letter carries many small pointed incisions by metal pincers, done in a fumigating station either at Constantinople or Bucarest."

We do know that in many cities and towns of the then Ottoman Empire Greek post offices were functioning at the Greek Consulates from the 1840's, using either button type, numeral or dated postmarks. Hereby is a list of the Greek post offices abroad using official postmarks:

Alexandria-Tourkia, Arti, Arta-Tourkia, Volos, BOUKOURESTI, BOUKOURESTI-VLACHIA, GALATZION-MOLDAVIA, Thessaloniki, thessaloniki-Tourkia, IBRAILA-VLACHIA, Ioannina, Ioannina-Tourkia, Constantinoupolis-Tourkia, Larissa, Larissa-Tourkia, Preveza, Preveza-Tourkia, Smyrna-Tourkia, all in the prestamp period and SULINA-TOURKIA only in the postage stamp period.

Up to date I never heard or read about Royal Decrees for establishment of official post offices with the exception of those of GALATZ, IBRAILA, BUCAREST and SULINA.

In all the mentioned cities or towns - all in the Ottoman Empire - were Greek Consulates because of the large number of Greek nationals living there.

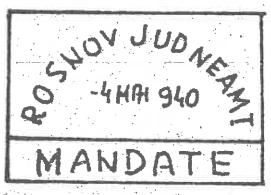
Any additional information regarding this subject will be welcomed by the author and the editor of this bulletin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Emilios D. Xanthopoulos, past president of the Hellenic Philatelic Society of America, is also the author of a study published in 1968, in Greek and English, by the Philatelic Library of Athens on "Russian mail of the Monastic Cell of St. Chrysostomos in Mounth Athos.

Unusual Cancels, Part II, by Silviu Dragomir, Str. Popa Chitu No.17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

MONEY ORDER CANCEL.

Following Dr. Robert Bell's articles on "Money Order Cancellations on Regular Mail" (No.1/1977) I would like to make known that I have in my collection tens of this type of cancels. Especially I want to present such a cancelmark with a totally different design from the others and withe the inscription: ROSNAV JUD NEAMT 4 MAI 940 MANDATE.



USUAL OR PUBLICITY CANCEL?

In Sibiu, during the National Jamboree, a double circle type cancelmark was used: SIBIU (on the top), JAMB. NAT. (on the bottom) and the date in the middle, (for example 22 IUL 932). Because of its usual format and without any additional inscriptions, it raises the question if it belongs to the usual cancels, or among the publicity cancels (slogan cancels).

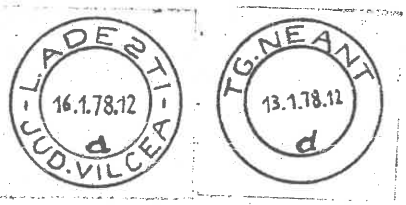
MARITIME AGENCY CANCEL.

The cancel presented herein is one of the many used by the S.M.R. (Societatea Maritima Romana) maritime line. Being an undated cancel, apparently rubber-made, I am inclined to believe that it belonged to S.M.R.'s agency in Istambul, and probably all other agencies had similar cancels for administrative use. This kind of cancelmark is often found on correspondence, because some senders probably wanted to "test" their presence in those localities. This is an abnormal use, and therefore these items should be catalogued in the "unusual" category (see "Curiosities and abnormities" by Silviu Dragomir, Filatelia, No.12/1977). Personally, I don't believe in the explanation given by Mr. Sassover (Filatelia, No.10/1977) stating that these cancels were applied in Constanta to mark the destination, since the cancel found by him (SMIRNA with date) could not be used in any other locality but at Smirna. I don't know of any cancels with date applied outside the inscribed locality.

ERRORS.

Dan-Mihai Belcea, a high school student in Bucharest, presented in the philatelic press (Filatelia, No.11/1977) the existence of some errors in inscriptions. One example given was the LADESTI cancel with the letter "S" turned around.

There are many such cases and they could form a new group in marcophily (the study of postal markings): the one of errors. I illustrate here such a cancel from TG. NEAMT, with the letter "M" replaced by an "N" making it TG. NEANT.



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EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 34-24 76th STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11372

THE DEBRETIN OVERPRINT FORGERY

by GUSTAV NOSKA, Str. Lamiitei No. 48, 7528 Bucharest, Romania.

In April 1919, during the Romanian occupation of part of Hungary, in the city of Debretin (Debrecen), some Hungarian stamps were overprinted to be used during the new but temporary administration.

Two different cliches were used, each grouped in plates of 100. The first type, used only on a limited number of stamps as a test, is different from the second type by the fact that the oval frame was made of two parallel very thin lines and the numbers *"19"* are divided by a larger interval giving the impression of being separated.

After it was found that the interval between the two parallel lines became filled with ink, the cliches were replaced. The overprints made with first cliches are very scarce.

The second type of cliche, had the frame made of a single, solid line and the two *"19"s* were brought closer together to form *"1919"*.

The size of the first cliche is 15/9 mm; the second cliche is slightly larger: 16/9½ mm,.

The colors are blue, black and red. There are known inverted, double and off-centered overprints.

Inside the oval frame, the top reads: *"ZONA DE OCUPATIE"* (occupation zone), which is longer than the half of the frame; on the bottom between two crosses of Malta: *"1919"* and *"ROMANA"* . In the center is the *"double F"*, which was King Ferdinand's monogram, and the letters PTT.

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Somerset, N.J. 08873

EDITOR'S NOTE: Describing just some of the forgeries (known to a particular author), when several were made, could be misleading. Collectors may find stamps with characteristics of overprints different from the forgeries described above. If they do not match the ORIGINAL, they should be considered forgeries even if they don't match the above described forgeries.

SUBJECT	ORIGINAL	FORGERY
All letters	regular, well visible angles,	irregular, rounded angles,
"O" in ZONA	wider on the top	normal
"P" in OCUPAIE	almost angular loop	round and smaller loop
"E" in OCUPATIE	larger than the other letters, the horiz. bars long as of the E in DE,	horiz. bars of both E's short and thin.
Accentmark on the first A in ROMANA	large and slightly tilted,	smaller and irregular,
Accentmark on the second A in ROMANA	large, almost always touching the top, of A,	smaller and irregular,
Crosses of Malta	well defined	undefined spots,
1919	well defined angles	rounded angles,
First 1 in 1919	top thicker than the vertical part,	top short,
Second 1 in 1919	top normal, located exactly under the monogram's angle,	top very short, not always, located exactly under the monograms' angle,
Second 9 in 1919	thicker, bigger than first 9, almost touching N under it,	normal,
Horiz. bars in monogram	ended in triangles,	rounded ends,
P in PTT	Loop extended to right, shorter than half length,	shorter and more open loop,
First T in PTT	Longer left arm, right arm ends exactly on the ext. of 2-nd F's vertical line,	equal arms, right of arm ends before or after the ext. of the 2-nd F's vertical line,
Second T in PTT	left arm slightly bent down, vertical leg slightly bent right,	normal,

Original

Forgery

R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, nr. 1.

THE C.M.T. ISSUE

by Jan Czerniawski, Kolomyja.

(Published in Poland, in *"Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistyczny"*, in 1934, and in Romania, in *"Filatelia pentru Toti"*, nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1935.)

On Saturday, May 24, 1919, the Ukrainian army left Kolomyja and on Monday, May 26 of the same year, the entire Pokucia area was occupied by the Romanian army. During the first days of the Romanian occupation, all traffic stopped in this territory. From sunset until morning, nobody was allowed to leave home. It was even prohibited to turn on the lights in houses during this time. The post offices funtioned only in relation to the occupation authority which was the *"High Command of the Occupation Army in Pokucia"* under the command of a Romanian colonel, G. Liciu.

Private postal traffic was also nonexistent during this time; postal services were provided only for the occupation authorities through the Romanian posts, namely the *"Military Tel. Posts of the 8th Division"*. This was the situation until June 12, 1919.

Then Major Turbatu of the Romanian army arrived in Kolomyja as the representative of the higher authorities for post offices for the purpose of opening and moving the postal traffic in Pokucia. When he learnt at the Kolomyja post office that I am a long time philatelist (from before the war) and that I had taken part under the Ukrainian authorities in the issuance of the Ukrainian stamps, he invited me to the post office.

I met Major Turbatu there and after greeting formalities, he declared that he had come to Kolomyja on the order of the Romanian authorities to restore the normal posts for civilians. He asked me to tell him my opinion on this matter and to give him advice regarding the stamps which would have to be used during the Romanian occupation.

I told him the best thing would be to introduce Romanian stamps because probably an adequate number of Ukrainian and Austrian stamps could not be found. Major Turbatu answered that the Occupation High Command did not wish to use Romanian stamps because Pokucia was occupied only temporarily and added at the same time that a large number of Austrian stamps had been collected from all the post offices in Pokucia, they were already in Cernauti and they will have to be overprinted to avoid the use of Austrian stamps from other places, to the detriment of the postal treasury. This overprint had to be chosen so as not to show openly the sovereignity of the Romanian state over the occupied territory.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Austrian stamps would bear the overprint *"C.M.T."* (Comandamentul Militar Teritorial) and an indication of the new values: 40h, 60h and 1K20h. For this purpose, three rectangular metal cancelers had to be made. Then, Major Turbatu said that he would leave immediately for Cernauti where the abovementioned cancelers were to be manufactured and with which all the Austrian stamps in Cernauti would be overprinted. These stamps would then be brought to Kolomyja by him after two or three days.

Size of overprints in mm:			
Type	Frame	C.M.T.	Value
40h	16.5x14.5	6	3.5
60h	16.5x14.5	6	3.5
1K20h	18.5x14.5	7	4.0

Meanwhile, the postal traffic was also opened for use by civilians. For franking purposes, a very small quantity of Romanian stamps was put at the post office's disposal. Following my request, two of these stamps were applied on a postal stationery, cancelled with the date of June 12, 1919 (the opening day of the post office) and given to me as a philatelist.

I make the observation here that because of the strict censorship of letters, postal traffic was very limited during the entire occupation. Civilians mailed letters almost always to authorities in official matters.

On the afternoon of June 14, Major Turbatu returned to Kolomyja bringing the entire quantity of the Austrian stamps, which were overprinted in the manner shown above. (Editor's Note: This is incorrect; only part of the overprinted stamps were brought to Kolomyja, the rest was left in Cernauti.) Right after his arrival, he invited me to the Post Office and there, in the cashier's office, he showed me the stamps that he brought. We both examined them, sheet by sheet, checking if they corresponded with the table brought by Major Turbatu. Responding to my request, Major Turbatu permitted me to copy this table for philatelic purposes in order to establish the number of the overprinted stamps.

This table is presented here with explanations. From this table, the following facts emmerge:

a). The number of stamps of each value that were overprinted and which Austrian stamps were used.

b). The fact that part of them were sent, right after Major Turbatu's arrival, to the post offices of Delatyn, Lanczin, Sniatyn and Horodenka as well as the types that were sent.

c). The fact that besides stamps, Austrian 10 Heller postal cards were also overprinted (with 40h) for domestic and foreign use.

Right after his arrival, Major Turbatu ordered that all the other post offices in the occupied territory would be required to request the necessary stamps from the Kolomyja post office.

I was informed by Major Turbatu that in the above mentioned manner all of the available Austrian stamps were overprinted and distributed, that he had no more to distribute, and, that in case the overprinted quantity will be not sufficient for the duration of the occupation, it will be necessary to introduce current Romanian stamps.

The published table indicated that only 13 different Austrian stamps were overprinted.

Other overprinted stamps (on Austrian stamps) were not made during the occupation. (Editor's Note: This is incorrect). For this reason, all other overprints have to be considered as speculative.

I mention that Major Turbatu graciously gave me all of the information presented above. I was a philatelist and beside that, the occupation authority named me representative justice for the whole duration of the occupation.

In addition to the offices mentioned in the table, the following post offices asked for and received from the Kolomyja post office, C.M.T. stamps: Peczenizyn and Zablotow, each 360; Obertyn, 240. Besides these, no other post offices asked for postal matter.

Based on letters coming to Kolomyja, I could note that the stamps were used in Kolomyja, Peczenizyn, Zablotow, Sniatyn, Obertyn and Horodenka. I also have covers from these places in my collection. I don't have and I have not seen letters from Delatyn and Lanczyn.

Together with the postal matter, Major Turbatu brought on June 14, 1919, an official ordinance of the occuaption army in Pokucia, drawn up only in German, through which the introduction of the C.M.T. stamps was announced. The title of the ordinance, which

Postal matter	Postage stamps								Postage due stamps					P.cards
Overprint	40h	60h	60h	60h	60h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	40h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	40h
Orig. value	5H	15H	20H	25H	30H	50H	60H	1K	5H	25H (1910)	25H (1916)	30H	50/42H	10H
Post office	Quantities:								Quantities:					Qties:
Kolomyja	8	2500	8000	2000	1400	1400	40	220	400	58	-	17	15	600
Delatyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Lanczyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Sniatyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Horodenka	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	-	120	-	-	100
Total:	8	4500	16000	3200	2600	2600	40	820	800	118	120	17	15	1000

we will publish later is:

"Instruktionen betreffend die Wiederaufnahme des amtlichen und privaten Post und Telegrphen verkehrs im besetzten Gebiet". (Editor's Note: The ordinance was not included in this article.)

This ordinance was posted only in the post office, at the prefect's office and in the city hall of Kolomyja.

The technical execution of the C.M.T. stamps was made with three cancelers of 40h, 60h and 1K20h. These cancelers (handstamps) were obtained from the military authorities of Cernauti.

The color of the stamps' overprint used in Pokucia during the occupation was dark blue. (Editor's Note: Incorrect, it was shades of violet.) Overprints in other colors: red or black have to be considered as speculative.

Having examined, in the presence of Major Turbatu, all of the sheets, I noticed that among the stamps of 60h on 20H, there were eight sheets on which the first stamp had an inverted overprint, certainly because of the soldier's mistake, who applied the overprint. Besides this, a larger quantity of stamps of these sheets had double overprint.

With Major Turbatu's approval, I immediately bought a block of four with inverted overprint and double overprint. All the other stamps with errors remained at the post office to be used. Except for these two above-mentioned errors, all the other stamps were exact.

The Romanian occupation lasted until August 20, 1919. On that day, all the post offices returned on Major Turbatu's orders, all unsold postal matter. At that time, these were also withdrawn from sale in Kolomyja.

On August 20, 1919, I was invited by Major Turbatu to the Post Office where I bought for collection a few of the unsold stamps; the rest was counted by Major Turbatu in my presence and, together with the prepared table, was taken to Cernauti. I copied this table with Major Turbatu's consent and in his presence; confirm this table from the entire stock remained unsold:

5499 stamps 60h on 20H
12 stamps 60h on 15H
130 stamps 1K20h on 50H
41 stamps 40h on 5H
2 stamps 1K20H on 50 postage due
30 stamps 1K20H on 25H postage due 1910.

Aside from the above indicated, no other stamps were left. On August 21, 1919, the evacuation of the Romanian army began and in the mean time, the Polish army took over the Pokucia territory.

This is all about the authentic C.M.T. stamps which were in circulation in Kolomyja and Pokucia.

In every catalogue, we find in addition to the above-mentioned 13 original C.M.T. stamps a long set of other values of this issue with fantastic prices.

We have to ask: where do these stamps come from? This was for a long time an enigma to me because I personally followed the genesis of these stamps in all of their phases and I had accurate data on their numbers.

Only in January 1920, I found out how this happened with the C.M.T. stamps other than the 13 mentioned above. On January 20, 1920, I was visited by Dr. W.R., a philatelist who at the same time was doing some philatelic trading. During the discussion on the C.M.T. stamps, I expressed to him my surprise regarding the many kind of C.M.T. stamps which were not known to me as originals but which were listed in catalogues.

Dr. W.R. gave me the following explanation:

a) A few days before August 20, 1919, a professor from Cernauti whose name Dr. W.R. did not know or did not want to tell, came to Kolomyja and brought 100 complete sets of Austrian 3H-1K postage stamps and a quantity of postage due stamps of the SH-1K values. In the absence of Major Turbatu, these stamps were cancelled with the postal cancel of Kolomyja. Later, after the end of the Romanian occupation, he succeeded, I don't know how, in over printing these stamps with the various original C.M.T. overprints. The professor took these stamps to Vienna and sold them as originals, among the buyers of which was also the well known philatelic company F. which bought a whole set.

b) After the occupation, at the beginning of September, a speculative corporation was formed in Cernauti which bought a quantity of mint Austrian stamps, applied on them, the original C.M.T overprint, and took them to Vienna, together with the original cancelers to prove the authenticity of the offered merchandise. At the same time, an *"official"* destruction of the cancelers was performed in order to make impossible the manufacture of these overprinted stamps in the future. This destruction was made in the presence of a notary public, Dr. W.R., and two representatives of one of the most important philatelic companies of Vienna. The notary prepared a special document regarding the destruction of C.M.T. cancelers.

It is true that the overprinting of the stamps (other than the excess of 13 noted above) was done with the original cancelers but this was neither done on the order of the competent authorities nor during the time when the C.M.T. overprinting was allowed. Therefore, all of the C.M.T. stamps, except the 13 noted above have to be considered speculative and I am convinced that nobody can prove that they are found on authentic letters that went through the regular mail.

In this way is explained the secret of the C.M.T stamps, unauthentic even if they were made with the original handstamps.

MORE ON THE C.M.T. ISSUE

by George Pataki.

In nos. 10, 11-12 of 1940 and 1, 2, 3-4 of 1941 of the *"Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane '*, published in Bucharest, I. Bogdan brings valuable contributions to the history of the C.M.T. stamps, some contradicting, others confirming and even complementing the description given by Jan Czerniawski in his article *"The C.M.T. issue"* presented above.

I. Bogdan argues that these stamps were officially made and used on the orders on the Territorial Military Command of the Romanian Occupation Army of Pokucia and that this was made public in a 14-point *"Instructions"* even if the Ministry of Posts of the Romanian government had nothing to do with this issue.

He also states that besides the postal cards for domestic use and the ones for international use, some 200 military (Feldpostkarten) postal cards (light grey or yellowish-grey) were over printed, (with 40h) the entire lot being around 1,000.

Bogdan's article presents statements made by various people involved in the overprinting and/or distributing this issue.

Ilariu Ostapovici, controller in the Postal Department of Cernauti, declared, for example that the overprinted stamps were legal for use allover Romania and not only in the occupied Pokucia.

Major Diagu C. declared that the overprinted stamps could be used throughout Romania until the day the Romanian army left the occupied territory, that the hand stamps were made of bronze, and that the ink was mostly black-violet (the color used by the Austrian posts) and seldom blue or red.

Bogdan also quotes Urziceanu, an engineer with the Railroad Administration, who declared that he had a brother, a captain stationed in Cernauti, and that at his request, his brother had bought at the Central Post Office in Cernauti (at the postal window of the 8th division) several of these stamps. This is important because it shows that the C.M.T. stamps were also sold outside Pokucia and that the number of overprinted stamps had to be greater than indicated in the table made in Kolomea by Turbatu-Czerniawski.

The article quotes a reputable philatelist, Dr. W. Pohl who published an article in *"Der Postverzeichenhandler"* in Berlin (Jan. 15,

1925), stating that the C.M.T. issue was not made with the intention of creating philatelic rarities and that to the contrary, all the available Austrian stamps were overprinted, and presented a table of these stamps (18 postage stamps and 11 postage due stamps) that existed in the Central Post Office's warehouse in Cernauti, on August 5, 1919. This proves that many values other than the ones sent to Kolomea were overprinted and that the total number of overprinted stamps is larger than the one given by Czerniawski.

Another article on this subject, worth mentioning, is by Odo Gh. Boehm. It was published in *"Postmarke"* of February 1934,

ODO G.H. Boehm's Table of Overprinted Stamps

40h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
3H lilac-red	franking stamps	1913		
3H violet		1916	20,272	invtd. sdwy. dbl.
5H light green		"	16,044	" "
6H orange		"	780	" " "
10H claret		"	9,063	" "
12H blue-green		"	722	" "
20H dark green-blue		1917		-
25H blue		"	4,000	-
40H olive		1916		"
5H red	postage due stamps	1916	9,565	-
10H red		"	1,725	"
15/36H violet		1917		" only,
20/54H orange		"		-

60h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
5H light green	franking stamps	1916		pair with 40H/5H
6H orange		"		inverted only
12H blue-green		"		invtd. sdwy.
15H red-brown		1917	14,589	"
20H dark green-blue		"	68,307	" "
20H green		"		1 sheet in Kol.
25H blue		"	6,313	inverted
30H violet		"	5,237	"
40H olive		1916	3,564	"
50H dark green		"	3,200	-
60H dark blue		"	10,256	"
15/36H violet	postage due stamps	1917	1,334	-
20H red		1916	737	-
30H red		"		2 stamps known
1K blue		"		pair with 1.20/1K

1K20h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
3H violet	franking stamps	1916		-
5H light green		"		-
15H red-brown		1917		-
25H blue		"		-
50H dark green		1916	15,094	inverted
60H dark blue		"	7,650	"
80H brown-red		"	6,750	-
90H dark lilac		"	184	-
1K red on yellow		1918	2,662	inverted
20/54H	postage due stamps	1916	900	-
25H red		1910	83	-
25H red		1916	300	inverted
30H red		"	872	-
40H red		"	498	-
50H red		"		inverted
50/42H brown		1917	1,304	"
1K blue		1916	3,325	"

Romanian occup. of POKUCIA 1938 Romanian Catalogue by C.Nămoloiu & G.Noska
40h/ 3H red-lilac
40h/ 3H violet
40h/ 5H green-yellow
40h/ 6H orange
40h/10H red-lilac
40h/12H blue-green
40h/15H red-brown
40h/20H green-blue
40h/25H dark blue
40h/40H olive
40h/60H blue
60h/ 5H green-yellow
60h/ 6H orange
60h/12H blue-green
60h/15H red-brown
60h/20H green-blue
" light green
60h/25H dark blue
60h/30H violet
60h/40H olive
60h/50H dark green
60h/60H dark blue
1K20h/ 3H violet
1K20h/ 5H green yellow
1K20h/15H red-brown
1K20h/25H dark blue
1K20h/30H violet
1K20h/50H dark green
1K20h/60H dark blue
1K20h/80H brown-red
1K20h/90H lilac-red
1K20h/ 1K red on yellow
Postage due stamps
40h/ 5H red
40h/10H red
40h/15 on 36H violet
40h/20 on 54H orange
60h/15on15on36H violet
60h/20 on 54H orange
60h/20H red
60h/30H red
60h/ 1K blue
1K20h/20 on 54H orange
1K20h/20H carmine
1K20h/25H red
1K20h/30H red
1K20h/40H red
1K20h/50 on 42H brown
1K20h/50H red
1K20h/ 1K ultramarine.

and in the March and April 1935 issues of *"Filatelia pentru toti"*.

The author mentions that certain values of the overprinted Austrian stamps were sent to Kolomea for distribution and use but other values were left at the Central Post Office in Cernauti and later sold; consequently they can be found only mint. The postal rates at the time were: 40H for a postcard, 60H for a letter and 1K20H for the registration fee, therefore all the available Austrian stamps were overprinted with these values. O. Gh. Boehm states that at the beginning, some stamps were overprinted as *"color proofs"* with blue and with red ink but they were not satisfactory and the color was changed to black. Later the ink pads were refilled with violet ink, as a result the overprints were black (scarce), later black-violet, finally violet.

As described by Boehm, the overprinting was done in the Central Post Office of Cernauti by postal clerks supervised by military personnel. When one of the clerks got tired, another clerk replaced him but as a result of not always checking the cancler's postion, sideway and inverted overprints resulted.

In his article, the author presents several tables which indicate that many more stamps and many more values of Austrian stamps were overprinted than the one known to Jan Czerniawski in Kolomea because they were not sent to Pokucia.

According to Boehm, all the overprinted Austrian stamps (see the enclosed table) were of the 1913, 1916, 1917/18 postage stamp issues and of the 1910, 1916 and 1917 postage due stamp issues.

Several catalogues also list other overprinted values but the author is dismissing them as mistakes or forgeries.

O. Gh. Boehm considers the stamps with authentic red or blue overprints as essays (color proofs) and he lists as known the following: Red overprint; 40h on 3 and 5H; 60h on 3, 5, 25, 30, 60H; 1K20h on 30H. Blue overprint: 40H on 5H; 60h on 5, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60H; 1K20h on 1K postage stamps, and 1K20 on 25, 50/42H postage due stamps. He concludes that the majority of the essays existing in commerce have forged overprints.

The 1938 Romanian Catalogue (by C. Namoloiu & G. Noska) gives an even longer list than Boehm for the C.M.T. issue: 32 postage and 17 postage due stamps. The 1946 Romanian Catalogue (by F. Konrad) gives almost the same list, specifying that the overprint is dark violet and was made with aniline-based ink.

In conclusion, insofar as the number and the types of the overprinted values are concerned, to use an old saying: *"only one thing is certain: that nothing is certain"*. The turbulent war years and the lack of accurate bookkeeping of the military bureaucracy made possible this chaos and uncertainty and forced the collectors to shy away from this historically interesting but inaccurately documeted issue.

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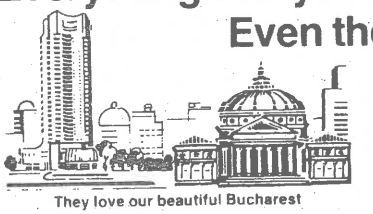
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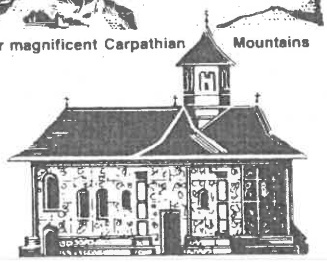
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R. Phil. Studies 1984, VIII, no. 1

STAMPS FOR THE ROMANIAN OCCUPATION OF POKUTIA

By: Stanley Kronenberg

Reprinted from THE UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST
Vol.30, 1983, No.46

Pokutia, the part of Western Ukraine around Kolomyia, became a hotly contested territory shortly after the end of World War I. A most complicated war was taking place with the Ukrainians, Poles and the Russian Bolsheviks fighting among each other for the possession of these lands. On May 26, 1919, after the Ukrainian Army left this area, the Eighth Division of the Romanian Army moved in and occupied Pokutia. This occupation lasted until August 21, 1919 when the Romanians left this region and the Polish Military moved in. Pokutia then became a part of Poland until the beginning of World War II. At the end of World War II, it became a part of the Soviet Ukraine and is thus under the rule of the Soviet Union.

Mail Service Under the Romanian Occupation:

Immediately after the Romanians moved in there was no postal service available to private persons, only Romanian military mail was transported through Romanian military channels. On June 12, 1919, Romanian Army Major Turbatu came to Kolomyia and officially opened the postal service for private persons. He brought with him a small number of Romanian stamps for this purpose. Two days later he brought newly issued occupational stamps which were overprinted obsolete Austrian stamps (ref. 1). These overprints were made by means of three different metal overprinting devices which were ordered in Chernivtsi (ref. 2): "C.M.T." (the abbreviation for Romanian: "Comandementul Militar Teritorial" - Territorial Military Command), with new denominations in Austrian Heller and Kronen, all surrounded by rectangular frames. 40 H, 60 H, and 1 K 20 H denomination overprints were made singly by hand with dark violet blue ink. Figure 1 shows the three kinds of overprints and Table 1 lists the 13 values of originally overprinted stamps and their numbers issued according to references 3 and 4. Depending on the source, the reported numbers of issued stamps vary significantly and the collector has difficulty in determining the rarity of these stamps.

According to my observations, the rarest stamp is No. 10. Also rare are numbers: 8, 11, 12 and 13. The remaining stamps occur with approximately equal frequency and are more often seen then the five stamps mentioned above. All stamps of this issue are uncommon and elusive. On original correspondence, particularly on nonphilatelic covers, they are indeed rarities.

Stamps of this issue were used in the following post offices: Deliatyn, Horodenka, Kolomyia, Lanchyn, Obertyn, Pechenizhyn, Sniatyn and Zabolotiv. They were cancelled with Austrian town name cancellations.

Second Edition Overprints:

In addition to the thirteen original values more overprinted stamps were made exclusively for philatelic purposes. Table II lists these stamps. In the literature they are considered reprints. It is difficult to agree with this classification because all overprinting was done apparently during the Romanian occupation while the overprinted stamps were still in use. Describing them as "second edition" appears to be more appropriate. The overprint ink is the same as in the case of originally overprinted stamps and everything points to the fact that both editions were made by the same persons connected with the local postal service. More stamps of denominations listed in the first edition (Table I) were also overprinted with this second party of stamps. They cannot be distinguished and therefore I did not repeat their listing in Table II. This state of affairs may possibly be the reason for the very large discrepancies in the listings of numbers issued (Table I), Boehm having included stamps of both editions. Some of these later overprinted stamps have had some postal use or at least some token postal use, possibly arranged by the proprietors of these stamps to give them philatelic respectability. For example, I have seen stamp Numbers 39 and 40 on pieces of covers with genuine cancellations of Kolomyia and Sniatyn respectively. Few other stamps occur off paper, cancelled to order with original cancellations.

Other overprints were made by means of original metal overprinting devices but with different inks: black, violet, red and green. Some collectors consider these stamps "proofs" but abuse for philatelic purposes is more likely to have been the motivation. Eventually the three overprinting devices were officially destroyed (Ref. 2).

Forgeries:

Forgeries of these overprints do exist but are not often seen. Their main common characteristic is the difference in the overprint ink. The genuine ink was dark violet blue, it always soaked through the paper and can always be seen on the reverse of these stamps. In forged overprints, the inks vary, most frequently forgeries are in violet ink which does not soak through the paper.

Figure 2 shows a forged 60 H overprint made in violet ink. Dimensions of its frame agree well with genuine 60 H overprints but note that the lines forming the sides of "M" are not parallel to each other while they are parallel in genuine overprints, the left side of "C" is curved, it is a straight line in genuine overprints.

Figure 3 illustrates a forgery made with a dull black ink. While its overall overprint dimensions are close to the originals, the left leg of "M" is slanted to the right assuming the top of the "M" as the pivot point.

In conclusion, the Romanian Occupational Issue for Pokutia is still partially shrouded in mystery and will probably remain so because of the lack of documentary materials. All of these stamps are rare and appear to be undervalued in catalogues as they are not popular with collectors.

One should keep in mind that these stamps are witnesses to a long ago forgotten war which is rarely mentioned in history books and are a documentation of a violent period in that part of Europe.

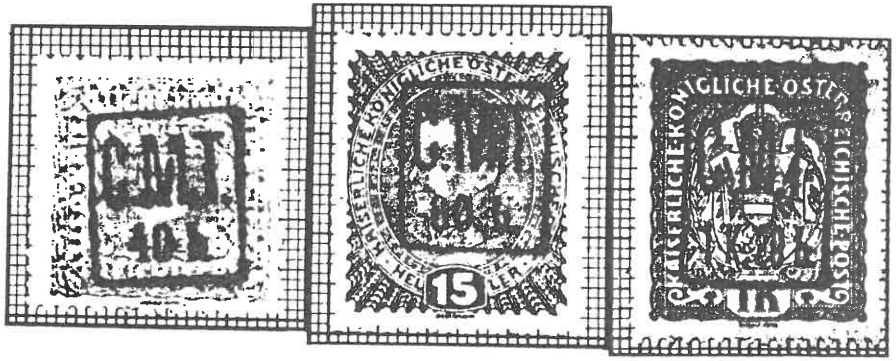

Figure 1: The three "C.M.T." overprints. The background grid is in millimeters to make possible the determination of overprint dimensions. Photographed through a filter to subdue the background.

Figure 2: An example of a forged overprint (60H/15H postage due, Nr 41) imprinted with violet ink.

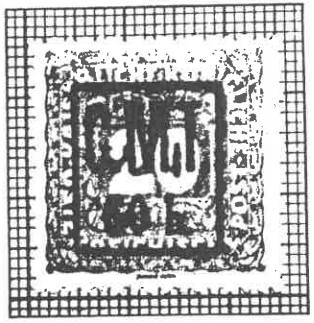

Figure 3: An example of a forged overprint (60H/20H postage due, Nr 43) imprinted with a dull black ink.

Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint, Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.		Number Issued According to Boehm (Ref. 3)	Number Issued According to Cherniavsky (Ref. 4)
	REGULAR STAMPS			
1.	40 H/5 H Light Green	146	16044	8
2.	60 H/15 H Red Brown	168	14589	4500
3.	60 H/20 H Green	169	68307	16000
4.	60 H/25 H Blue	170	6313	3200
5.	60 H/30 H Gray Violet	171	5237	2600
6.	1 K 20 H/50 H Dark Green	155	15094	2600
7.	1 K 20 H/60 H Dark Blue	156	7650	40
8.	1 K 20 H/1 K Red on Yellow	159	2662	820
	POSTAGE DUE STAMPS			
9.	40 H/5 H Red	J 49	9565	800
10.	1 K 20 H/25 H Carmine	J 41	83	118
11.	1 K 20 H/25 H Red	J 53	300	120
12.	1 K 20 H/30 H Red	J 54	872	15
13.	1 K 20 H/50 H/42 H Brown	J 63	-	15

Table 1: Listing of originally overprinted "C.M.T." stamps according to references 2, 3 and 4.

Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint, Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.		Serial Number	Denomination of Overprint, Denomination, Color and "Scott" Number of Basic (Austrian) Stamps.	
	REGULAR STAMPS				
14.	40 H/3 H Lilac	112	26.	60 H/10 H Lilac Red	148
15.	40 H/3 H Violet	145	27.	60 H/12 H Green Blue	149
16.	40 H/6 H Orange	147	28.	60 H/40 H Olive Green	154
17.	40 H/10 H Lilac Red	148	29.	60 H/50 H Dark Green	155
18.	40 H/12 H Green Blue	149	30.	60 H/60 H Dark Blue	156
19.	40 H/15 H Red Brown	168	31.	60 H/1 K Red on Yellow	159
20.	40 H/20 H Dark Green	169	32.	1 K 20 H/3 H Violet	145
21.	40 H/25 H Blue	170	33.	1 K 20 H/5 H Yellow Green	146
22.	40 H/40 H Olive Green	154	34.	1 K 20 H/15 H Brown Red	168
23.	60 H/3 H Violet	145	35.	1 K 20 H/25 H Dark Blue	170
24.	60 H/5 H Yellow Green	146	36.	1 K 20 H/80 H Red Brown	157
25.	60 H/6 H Orange	147	37.	1 K 20 H/90 H Lilac Red	158
	POSTAGE DUE STAMPS				
38.	40 H/10 H Red	J 50	44.	60 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62
39.	40 H/15/36 H Violet	J 61	45.	60 H/1 K Ultramarine	J 57
40.	40 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62	46.	1 K 20 H/20/54 H Orange	J 62
41.	60 H/15 H Red	J 51	47.	1 K 20 H/40 H Red	J 55
42.	60 H/15/36 H Violet	J 61	48.	1 K 20 H/50 H Red	J 56
43.	60 H/20 H Red	J 52	49.	1 K 20 H/1 K Ultramarine	J 57

Table II: Listing of stamps of the second edition. Additional few values may exist but I did not see them.

REFERENCES:

1. John Bulat, "Illustrated Postage Stamp History of Western Ukrainian Republic 1918-1919", Philatelic Publications, Yonkers, New York, 1973, Pages 43 and 44.

2. O. G. Boehm, "Die Briefmarken Der Rumanischen Besetzung in Ostgalizien (Pokutien)", Die Postmarke, 1934, pages 34-36.

3. A. Laszkiewicz, "Polskie Znaki Pocztowe", "Ikaros" 1935, pages 264 and 265.

4. J. Czerniawski, "Rumunskie Wydanie Okupacyjne Dla Pokucia", Bibl. Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistuczny, Kolomyia, 1934, page 21.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

In his publications with the C.M.T. issues, Dr. I. Cherniavsky refers to the "Second Edition Overprints" as speculative issues, not overprints. On page 74 of "Notes On the C.M.T. Stamps Issued During the Romanian Occupation of Pokutia", he states: "It is true that such surcharges were performed with the authentic handstamps, but not under the orders of the relevant authorities and they were done at times when further production of the C.M.T. occupation stamps was inadmissible. Thence, all surcharges with the exception of the 13 (thirteen) officially issued kinds noted above should be regarded as speculative".

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R. Phil. Stud., 1979, III, nr. 4.

THE ORIGINALS AND THE COUNTERFEITS OF THE C.M.T. OVERPRINTS

Dr. Marcel Sapira, Soseaus Oltenitei No. 73, Bl. 5, et. 2, Apt. 10, 75504 Bucharest, Romania

After a silence of almost 40 years, the problem of the C.M.T. overprints was raised again in No. 1/1979 of Romanian Philatelic Studies. To what was already presented in the bulletin, I will add what appears in *"Schach Den Falschungen,"* a booklet by Dr. A. Schroeder. Probably published around 1936-38, its last chapter deals with the *Kolomea issue and its counterfeits.*

Dr. Schroeder gives the total C.M.T. issue as 230.000 stamps, very close to the number given by Odo Gh. Boehm.

The color of the first overprints was black. As the black ink was progressively used up, a violet aniline-based ink was added. Stamps, overprinted at the beginning, having fully black overprints are therefore scarcer. Later the color of the overprints was changed more and more to violet and those made last have a completely violet overprint. The color proofs of the overprint are in blue or red; some are green. The original black overprints are delicate and warm while the counterfeited overprints have the color of *smoky black* (russigschwarz). The aniline-based ink was a mediocre *war product,* and was absorbed by the paper even when lightly applied; thus, it always shows on the back of the stamp. The counterfeits do not present this characteristic.

During the overprinting process with the 3 original dies, sideways, inverted and double overprints were produced. Sometimes parts of the frame were missing or doubled.

After the occupation, the company of Rudolf Friedl of Vienna, Austria, (Wallzeile 8) bought part of the unsold C.M.T. stamps, and, at their suggestion, the dies were taken to Vienna and destroyed.

The destruction of the orginal dies was done on September 12, 1919, in the presence of Dr. Julius Ullman, a notary public of Vienna (Hohenstaufengasse 2) who attested to this in official document no. 7216/19. Therefore, counterfeits could not have been made with the original dies (as stated by Jan Czerniawsky in his article and as is believed by many collectors and dealers). The counterfeiters were forced to make their own dies. Despite the fact that the orginal dies were simple, it was difficult to reproduce them exactly, and most of all to duplicate the exact colors of the orginal overprints.

The sizes of the ORGINAL dies are presented in mm:

	40h	60h	1k20h
1. Frame's width	14.5	14.5	14.5
2. Frame's height	16.5	16.5	18.5
3. CMT's average width	10.5	10.0	10.0
4. CMT'a average height	6.5	6.5	7.0
5. Value's average width	7.75	7.75	10.0
6. Value's height	3.5	3.5	4.0
7. Distance from CMT to top frame line	2.0	2.0	2.0

Schroeder describes six types of counterfeits identified by him. The illustrations he gives are unclear and their reproduction here will not be useful.

COUNTERFEIT 1.

Of Polish origin. 60h/40H. It is one of the most flagrant counterfeits. It seems that the dies were made of wood. The shapes of the letters are rougher than those of the originals. The color of the overprints is a dirty brownish black. There are also differences in sizes (given in mm).

	Original	Counterfeit
CMT's width	10.0	10.5
Value's width	7.75	8.0
Distance from CMT to top frame line	2.0	1.0

COUNTERFEIT 2.

Of Polish origin, 60h/15H. This counterfeit is a little bit better made, probably with a rubber stamp. The differences in sizes are (in mm):

	Orginal	Counterfeit
Distance from the period after *h* to the right frame line	3.0	2.5
Distance from CMT to top frame line	2.0	1.5
CMT's width	10.0	10.5
Value's width	7.75	8.0

Both counterfeits 1 and 2 were sometimes badly made, probably to create the illusion that they are originals.

COUNTERFEIT 3.

Made in Czernowitz (Cernauti). 1K20h/80H and 1K20h/1K. These were produced by overprinting with the original dies, used stamps bearing light cancellations. These counterfeits were manufactured by the clerks doing the overprinting, with an eye towards making a profit. With a magnifying glass, it can be seen that the overprint is over the cancellation, and not vice-versa.

COUNTERFEIT 4.

Made in Bucharest. 60h/20H Porto, 60h/12H and 1K20h/1K. These counterfeits have been offered very cheaply. The color of the overprints' is *smoky black* and the ink did not penetrate to the reverse of the paper. The overprints' sizes correspond with those of the originals, except that the distances from the overprint to the horizontal frame lines is 1.5 mm instead of 2 mm. Made in Bucharest 60/h20H Porto, 60h/12H and 1K20h/1K. These counterfeits have been offered very cheaply. The color of the overprints is *smoky black* and the ink did not penetrate to the reverse of the paper. The overprints'sizes correspond with those of the orginals, except that the distances from the overprint to the horizontal frame lines is 1.5 mm and the distance between CMT and the value is 1 mm larger than on the orginal.

COUNTERFEIT 5.

Of unknown origin. 1K20h/90H. The original overprinted stamp is very scarce and therefore we should beware of this counterfeit.

The letter *M* of the counterfeit is not like that of the original. The periods after the letters *C* and *T* are missing. There are differences in sizes (mm).

	Original	Counterfeit
Frame's height	18.5	19.0
Frame's width	14.5	15.0n
CMT's height	7.0	6.5
Distance from value to left vertical frame line	2.5	3.0

COUNTERFEIT 6.

Made in Czernowitz (Cernauti). 40h/12H, 40h/60H and 1K20h/80H. Schroeder claims, together with the expert G. Turliuc of Czernowitz, to have discovered the counterfeiter on June 13, 1935.

This overprint was made with a rubber stamp and its sizes match those of the originals. The ink, which penetrates the paper as on the originals, however has a slightly bluish hue. Small differences exist in the numerals of value, such as the *4* in 40h and the *1* in 1K20h. These stamps were probably not sold in Romania, but rather exchanged abroad.

And now, a few personal observations:

(1) Curiously enough, Schroeder did not mention couterfeits made in Vienna, Austria, which according to I. Bogdan, were overprinted with writing ink instead of printing ink.

(2) It is probable that the counterfeiters have applied their overprints on more than the one, two or three values respectively known to Schroeder.

(3) Opinions regarding the color of the ink are divided. I. Bogdan claims that purely black overprints are counterfeits, while Schroeder claims not only that they are originals but also the scarcest.

(4) There are two versions regarding the fate of the dies. According to Bogdan (Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane, No. 1/1941). Major Turbatu (the Romanian officer in charge of this issue and the postal services in Pokucia), *after the overprinting was finished, ordered the destruction of the dies to prevent abuse,* with the result that the dies were actually destroyed in Czernowitz. However, according to Czerniawsky and Schroeder, the dies were destroyed in Vienna and this destruction was notarized.

I am inclined to believe the Czerniawsky-Schroeder version, tied in with the possibility that between August 20 and September 19, 1919, what today might be called *reprints* were made in Czernowitz and perhaps also in Vienna. Such were made with the original dies and the original ink, and therefore cannot be distinguished from the orginals. We do not have information on the quantities and the face values of these *reprints,* nor after 60 years can we expect testimony on this matter. It is possible that some of the values only exist as *reprints,* but which these values are is impossible to establish. Therefore, collectors owning mint stamps of the C.M.T. issue should understand that while such stamps having all the characteristics of the originals, could indeed be originals, they may, however be just "reprints", and that they will never be positively identifiable. These overprinted stamps on postally used covers are, of course, very scarce and the only means of positive identification. From my discussions with very old collectors, I have learned that, in the period between the two World Wars, philatelist were not accurate in their reserch and did not even consider the problem of whether the C.M.T. issue had *reprints.* It seems that not even Turliuc, a recognized expert, dealt with this possibility.

(5) As often happens, not only were the overprints counterfeited, but likewise certificates and expert markings. G. Turliuc's expert marking comprises a letter *G* with a letter *T* inside. The height of the marking is exactly 2 mm and the G's horizontal bar is 1.8 mm wide. On the stamps I possess, the marking's ink is violet and is applied in the lower-left corner. Another expert marking is that of R. Karbas. It is 12.5 mm long, the height of the capital letters in 2 mm. and that of the lower-case letters in 1.1-1.2 mm. The wording is in violet, and is applied on the lower part of the stamp without any preferred position. I have a stamp with both R. Karba's and G. Turliuc's markings.

At the present time, I don't know of any recognized expert on this issue, and therefore, everyone must make his own judgement based on existing information. Personally, when younger collectors ask my opinion on some of the C.M.T. stamps, the most I can tell them is: *It is possible that they are not counterfeits.*

(6) The 1979 Zumstein catalogue presents the C.M.T. issue, giving higher and more realistic prices than in its ealier editions. It seems that the C.M.T. issue is to be reappraised by serious collectors.

REVIEW by Mark Fromer:

1915 CATALOGUE DE TIMBRES FISCAUX (Revenue Stamps Catalogue) by A. Forbin.

This reprint of the famous French—language catalogue contains all Romanian issues— through 1911 — in only 3 1/2 pages. Its illustrations are thus reduced in size to the point of near illegibility. Listings of perforation varieties are ommitted, consistent with the procedure of most general catalogues of that era. Similarly, no plate, transfer and watermark position varieties, nor any essays or proofs are enumerated. Only the most pronounced color and shade differences will be found listed.

On the other hand, the simplified register of the 1860—1911 period Romanian fiscals includes bourse and chamber of commerce revenues of Braila, Bucharest and Galatz, as well as the municipals of Bucharest, Jassy and Mangalia.

A photocopy of the Romanian section of Forbin can be ordered upon payment of $1.00 to Mark Fromer, 1519 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230.

WANTED: Used on cover, 9 Lei—41 Lei issue of 1943, First anniversary of the Liberation of Bessarbia(single, multiple or mixed franking) (Scott # B175; Stan Gib #1556; Minkus #905; Yvert #702; Michel #749):S. K. Schoenbucher, M.D. 765 Fairfield Dr. Marietta, GA 30067.

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R. Phil. Stud., NY, 1985, IV, nr. 2.

Review **Reprinted from**

The American Philatelist / *January 1985*

Historia Postala a Sibiului (Postal History of Sibiu), by Dr. Emanoil Munteanu. Published in Sibiu, Romania; available through the Romanian Philatelic Club, order from George Pataki, 84-47 Kendrick Pl., Jamaica Estates, NY 11432. Softbound, 126 pages. $11.

This is the best postal history study ever done of a Romanian town and its vicinity. Beginning with the history of written communication in ancient Dacia during the Roman administration, it continues with the postal organization of Transylvania (emphasizing the posts in Sibiu, formerly known as Hermannstadt and later as Nagy-Szeben) during the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries, and ends in 1918, but covering the Hohe Rinne local posts until 1926.

This book, in Romanian, features a large number of illustrations, including covers from both the pre-stamp and stamp eras, cancels and service markings, disinfection markings, seals, etc. The prevailing postal rates and stamps and postal markings are presented separately for each period.

Especially well-researched is the chapter on the Hohe Rinne (Păltiniș) local hotel posts, with the first-ever plating of those stamps. A comprehensive bibliography is included also. — *George Pataki*

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the HOHE RINNE local posts, is available from the EDITOR for $11.00.

The Timișoara Provisional Issue of 1919

Reprinted from The American Philatelist *February 1985*

by Norbert Blistyar and George Pataki

At the end of World War I, the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed. Countries became independent and new boundaries appeared. Romania and Yugoslavia, victorious in their national struggles, both wanted to annex the province of Bánát (Figure 1), located at the southwest corner of Romania.

Incorporation of this territory would present the Allies, who had to decide on new borders, with a *fait accompli*. The Serbian army entered Timișoara, Bánát's capital, on November 10, 1918, occupied part of this province, and left on July 27, 1919. This period has left its philatelic manifestation in the form of a round censor marking with "Cenzurirano u Temisvaru" (Figure 2) spelled out in Cyrillic letters, as well as other markings used in Sent Miklush, Panchevo, etc.

Bánát is populated mostly by Romanians, but its inhabitants also include Hungarians, Germans, Serbians, etc. Respecting the armistice conditions, the Serbian occupation forces did not intervene in the day-to-day work of the Postal Directorate of Timișoara. The latter ran postal services in Bánát, covering the counties of Bács-Bódróg, Timiș, Torontal, and Caraș-Severin (Krassó-Szörény in Hungarian). However, the Serbians systematically confiscated its revenues.

The Hungarian Government, based in Budapest, continued supplying postage stamps until the end of March 1919. After the Hungarian revolution, the installation of Béla Kún's Soviet-type regime, and the subsequent blockade by the Allies, made further supplying of Hungarian stamps impossible.

Current Hungarian stamps overprinted with the Serbian coat-of-arms served for mailing letters and wrappers with newspapers printed in the Serbian tongue. The posts tolerated these products of nationalistic fervor even though they neither authorized them nor did they sell them at post offices. The use of these overprinted issues on items that have gone through the mails does not prove their legality.

The transition period lasted from the cessation of Austro-Hungarian rule until the inauguration of Romanian administration. The Postal Directorate of Timișoara created four different issues during this interim by overprinting Hungarian stamps it had in stock. *Scott, Minkus, Michel,* and *Zumstein* catalogue all of these at the end of their Hungarian listings. While the 1938 and 1946 Romanian catalogues list only the fourth issue (also at the end of their lists), the 1959 edition includes all four (again at the end), but the 1964 and 1974 versions do not mention any of these.

Figure 2. Serbian censor marking.

We have found only two other references to these emissions published in Romania. *Der Banater Philatelist,* published in Timișoara, featured valuable information on this subject in 1920-1921 in Emanual Leipnik's "Die Entstehung der Temesvarer Provisioren" ("The Origin of the Timișoara Provisional Issues"). Also, an article by the late Marin Bora titled "Despre Emisiunile Provizorii din Timișoara, 1919" ("On the 1919 Timișoara Provisional Issues") appeared in *Filatelia,* No. 1-2, 1963.

In Hungary, László Súrányi published in *Philatelica* No. 1 of 1983, a well-documented study of these issues, and supplied us with data and photographs.

Figure 1. Map of Bánát.

Figure 3. First-issue postage stamps.

First Issue, "Serbian Occupation" (May 15-25, 1919)

To create the most-needed denominations, the 10- and 45-fillér (the latter required as registration fee) Hungarian stamps were surcharged by typography (Figure 3) with "10 fillér" and "45 fillér" overprints (Figure 4), as follows:

Scott No.	Denomination	Design	Stamp Color	Overprint Color & Type	Edition	Misprint
9N1	10 fillér/2f	Harvesters	brown-orange	blue, a	979,200	800
a	10 fillér/2f	Harvesters	brown-orange	black, a	20,000	
9NB1	45 fillér/10f+2f	Soldier in trench	rose-red	blue, b	498,000	2,000

A small, modestly equipped printing shop used the various typefaces available to do the job.

10 fillér 45 fillér

Figure 4. First-issue overprints.

The surcharging of 10,000 sheets (1,000,000 stamps) with "10 fillér" resulted in sheets with inverted, double, shifted, and smeared overprints. Out of the 5,000 sheets (500,000 stamps) with "45 fillér," twenty sheets became similar printer's waste. The 1959 *Romanian Catalogue* lists both the blue and the black "10 fillér" overprints as also occurring in inverted position (Figure 5).

Sheets of stamps with printing defects were deposited in the Postal Directorate's stockroom. Later, after the administration had changed, these "errors," having been removed, found their way to philatelic circles and turned into sought-after philatelic rarities.

Fakers imitated the surcharge right after these stamps were issued — this despite the existence of large editions of genuinely overprinted stamps. Both the typeface and color differ from the authentic. Such counterfeit overprints exist on the 1918 King Charles stamps (which were not even used for this issue) and the 2-fillér Harvesters. The latter, according to Dr. Viktor Weinert's article (published in *Donaupost,* No. 11, 1919), has even turned up on a postally used cover.

Counterfeiters also used rubber handstamps to apply fake violet or blue overprints. The similar-looking "35 fillér" overprint on 3-fillér stamps (Figure 6), and "45 fillér" on 2-fillér are bogus fabrications.

Various Banat post offices received and sold the 10 fillér/2 fillér on May 15, 1919, while the city of Timişoara (Temesvár in Hungarian) did not offer them until May 17, 1919. Tobacco shops selling postage stamps, and large users, such as banks and trading companies, received 10-fillér stamps according to their needs.

Each of the twenty-five members of the Timişoara Philatelic Association could buy three sheets. Others could buy only ten stamps. During the distribution to philatelists, one participant observed that Artur Malz, a postal inspector, possessed 100 of the 10-fillér sheets overprinted in black instead of blue. The Philatelic Association filed a complaint, and received the explanation that at one point surcharging in blue had to stop due to the urgent need to print a death notice in black. The resumption of overprinting without changing the ink resulted in 200 sheets with black overprints.

Figure 5. Inverted overprint.

Figure 6. Bogus "first issue" overprint.

Figure 7. Numeral with serifs.

Figure 8. Sans-serif numeral.

Figure 9. Missing right side of top serif.

Figure 10. Numeral with serifs.

Figure 11. Sans-serif numeral.

Figure 12. Missing right side of bottom serif.

Figure 13. Missing diagonal line.

To satisfy them, each irate philatelist received a sheet overprinted in black. Small post offices outside of Timişoara sold the rest of these "errors."

The issuance of the 45 fillér/10+2 fillér occurred on May 25, 1919. Each customer could buy five such stamps while tobacconists and large users received them according to their needs. Each member of the Philatelic Association could buy a sheet of 100 stamps.

Figure 14. Second-issue postage stamps.

The "45 fillér" overprint on the 10-fillér brown King Charles mentioned in the 1959 *Romanian Catalogue* as an error is definitely a forgery; in fact, in 1919, the courts started a legal action against the seller of this "error."

Marin Bora, who in 1932 bought a large lot of such stamps (six to fifteen sheets of denominations printed in large numbers and forty to sixty stamps of each of the

Figure 15. Second-issue postage dues.

varieties of the first, second, and fourth issues), listed in his aforementioned article the following varieties for the 10 fillér/2 fillér overprint:

a. In each sheet of 100, fifty-three stamps show the numeral "1" of "10" with a full serif (the short horizontal line) at bottom (Figure 7). Position 46 has its left side missing while No. 100 has the right side missing.

b. The remaining forty-five stamps display sans-serif "1's," that is, without any horizontal line at the leg's base (Figure 8).

c. Position 42 has the numeral "1" (with serif) smaller than the "0" in "10."

d. In Positions 53 and 82, the sans-serif "1" numerals are lower than the "0."

e. Furthermore, Position 53 features the numeral "1" inverted.

f. In Position 24, a mere vertical line, probably the letter "l," represents the numeral "1."

g. Position 30 shows the numeral "0" smaller than the "1."

h. In Position 45, the letter "f" has the right half of its top horizontal line missing (Figure 9).

For the 45 fillér/10+2 fillér stamp, Bora lists the following varieties:

a. The majority show the "4" in "45" with serif at bottom (Figure 10). Positions 11, 31, 41, and 51 are sans serif (Figure 11), while on No. 21 only the left half of the horizontal line remains (Figure 12).

b. Positions 47, 75, and 84 lack the oblique line of the numeral "4" (Figure 13).

c. Position 95 shows the numeral "5" of "45" broken at bottom.

d. The printing variety listed under "h" for the 10-fillér (letter "f" with missing right half of the top horizontal line) also occurs in the same position for the 45-fillér. This proves that when the 45 fillér/10+2 fillér stamp was made, the "45" replaced the "10" but the word "fillér" was kept on.

Position 18 on both the "10" and "45" fillér sheets gives further proof: In this position, a defective letter "e," with closed lower loop, appears.

The first-issue stamps, made on the orders of the Timişoara Postal Directorate without intervention by the occupation forces, to fulfill a real need, had much legitimate postal use. They continued to be valid at offices of this Directorate until March 15, 1920, when only Romanian stamps could be used.

However, collectors, and especially dealers, also applied them on a great number of philatelic covers, mailing themselves empty envelopes in order to create philatelic items. Many covers bear favor-canceled stamps and never went through the mails. Some are not even ad-

Figure 16. Second-issue overprints.

Figure 17. Inverted overprint.

dressed. Actual postal use of others, allegedly sent locally, whether ordinarily, registered, or express (and sometimes even registered *and* express), seems unlikely as they had no practical purpose.

Frankings vary from cover to cover and most often do not match the postal rates then in force. Many covers exist with mixed frankings, prepared by affixing both overprinted and un-overprinted stamps. Some covers even bear Serbian censor markings. These also could have been applied as favor cancels.

Second Issue, "Serbian Occupation" (July 1, 1919)

Inflation had caused Hungarian currency to steadily lose its value. To illustrate this fact, Leipnik's article showed that while exchange of an international response coupon initially yielded twenty-five fillér worth of postage, in 1915 it brought fifty-four fillér and in 1919 reached 2.25 korona. In order to adequately pay postal employees who were working in total isolation from the Budapest Postal Directorate, fees for postal, telegraph, and telephone services had to be increased. Accordingly, Dr. Kovács, the Timişoara Director of Posts and Telegraphs, signed memorandum No. 28973/1919 of June 28, 1919. It established the following fees, effective July 1, 1919, throughout the Timişoara Directorate's administrative territory:

— letters and letter cards: up to 20 grams, fifty fillér; twenty fillér for every 20 grams after that.

— postcards: thirty fillér.

— printed matter: up to fifty grams, ten fillér.

— sample merchandise: up to fifty grams, ten fillér, to a maximum of fifty fillér.

— registration fee: one korona.

— letter with declared value: one-korona registration fee, plus thirty fillér for each 300 korona of value.

— money order: one korona for first 100 korona; fifty fillér per 100 korona above that.

— parcel post: three korona for five kilograms; five korona for ten kilograms; seven korona for fifteen kilograms; nine

Figure 18. Second-issue postage dues with surcharge differences.

Figure 19. Philatelic covers with first- and second-issue frankings mixed with un-overprinted stamps.

korona for twenty kilograms.

— cash on delivery service: twenty fillér in addition to the other applicable fees.

— special delivery: three korona over the applicable fee.

The memo emphasized that for mail arriving from outside this territory, franked differently from the above rates, no postage due fees should be charged; however, insufficiently franked mail posted in the four counties of this directorate should be charged the postage due fee. While such an arrangement seems unusual by today's standards, given the conditions existing at that time in the Austro-Hungarian Empire's former provinces, this attempt to maintain postal services fell within legal limits and was allowed by international rules.

The second Timisoara issue, released on July 1, 1919, consists of six Hungarian stamps, three postage (Figure 14) and three postage due (Figure 15), surcharged (by lithography) to change their denomination (Figure 16, from a to f). The Csendes Testvérek (Csendes Brothers) printing plant produced these overprints. They worked under excellent conditions, under the supervision of a commission, and only the "1K50f" red overprint did not come out satisfactorily, and had to be replaced by one in black ink.

The second issue contains the surcharges of "30 fill" (for postcards), "50 fill" (for letters), and "1K50f" (for registered letters), as follows:

Scott No.	Denomination	Design	Stamp Color	Overprint Color & Type	Edition	Misprint
9N2	30f/2f	Harvesters	brown-orange	black, a	400,000	
a	inverted overprint	Harvesters	brown-orange	black, a	?	
9N3	50f/20f	King Charles	dark brown	dark blue, b	600,000	
a	inverted overprint	King Charles	dark brown	dark blue, b	?	
9N4	1K 50f/15f	Harvesters	violet	black, c	137,000	
a	1K 50f/15f	Harvesters	violet	red, c	60,000	3,000
b	double overprint	Harvesters	violet	black, c	?	
9NJ1	40f/2f	Postage Due	green & red	black, d	50,000	
9NJ2	60f/2f	Postage Due	green & red	black, e	50,000	
9NJ3	100f/2f	Postage Due	green & red	black, f	50,000	

One wonders why such a large number of postage dues were overprinted in light of the relatively small quantities usually required.

As with the first issue, printer's waste with inverted (Figure 17), shifted, and double overprints, was deposited in the Directorate's stockroom, but after the change of the administration it was removed, and thus entered philatelic circles. The red "1K50f" overprints applied on 60,000 of the King Charles stamps, after being declared unsatisfactory, shared the same fate.

We found some slightly different surcharge designs on the postage dues (Figure 18). These may turn out to be forgeries. On the other hand, we found no difference in color (black) or technical quality of execution from known genuine copies, and thus they might be true overprint differences.

The "40 FILLER" version shows the horizontal crossline of the numeral "4" situated lower than on the reference items and its ornament loops (under the diagonal line) are smaller.

The "60 FILLER" numeral seems thicker. As with the "40 FILLER," its loops are smaller. On the "100 FILLER," the top oblique serif on the numeral "1" curls upward and ends in a dot. Here, too, the loops are not as large as on the reference items.

More research should prove helpful on this subject by those who have quantities of these dues.

Figure 19 illustrates three philatelic covers bearing the Serbian censor marking ("Tzenzurirano u Temisvaru" written with Cyrillic letters, 32 mm in diameter, applied in red), with various combinations of stamps (with and without overprints, first and second issues). All three are identically canceled July 17, 1919, at the same hour (11 a.m.), with the Hungarian canceler "TEMESVAR Aa 1 Aa." Furthermore, all bear the same name and address (Kálmán Zsigmond, Temesvár, Csillag u. 37), and thus were allegedly mailed locally.

Again like the first issue, the second one lost postal validity on March 15, 1920, when Romanian stamps replaced them.

To be continued.

Relative Scarcity of Bucuresti Postal Markings

Peter M. Leibowitz, P.O. Box 812, Yonkers, N.Y. 10702-0812.

A very useful compilation of data on Romanian postal receipts, by Don Heller, dated April 1982, provides a basis for an analysis of the relative scarcity of postal markings from various Romanian cities and towns as well as for certain branch post offices within the larger cities. The data provided in this compilation covers the years 1887 to 1905 and provides the amount of income at each office, expressed in lei. By taking these figures as a measure of relative postal activity at each office, one can develop a rough measure of the relative scarcity of postmarked articles, whether they be letters, cards, etc., originating from one post office as opposed to another. Since the "Wheat Ears" series of stamps is of interest to many collectors, I have chosen the postal receipt figures for 1903-04 as a basis for the preliminary analysis presented here, covering a period when this series of stamps was in wide usage. Our analysis covers those post offices in the city of Bucuresti for which postal receipts were recorded in Heller's compilation, a total of 19 offices as listed below. There were, also, according to Heller's compilation, a number of offices in Bururesti without postal receipts, such as the Telephone and Telegraph offices, Police, Royal Palace ("Palatul Regal"), the Senate, etc. and these are not included here. In examining our table, it can be seen that if we take the most active post office, Bucuresti Central, as having a scarcity factor of 1.00 (representing the most common type of postmarks), then some of the offices appear to be hundreds and even thousands of times scarcer than the most common postmarks. For example, postmarks from Prefectura Ilfov appear to rank among the great rarities of Romanian postal markings simply because such markings may be 33,000 times as scarce as the most common. From a practical standpoint, does this mean that we should use this as a multiplication factor for arriving at the value of a postmark? Not necessarily, because there are other factors to consider. For example, large post offices used several cancelling devices, each a little different from another, while small offices had only one or just a few such devices. Nevertheless, Heller's compilation should shed some light on the relative scarcity of some markings. This note shows that not all Bucuresti markings are equal; some may be much scarcer than others, particulary on certain series of stamps.

The table was generated using the MULTIPLAN program on a home computer.

Relative scarcity of Bucuresti postmarks

Office	Lei 1903-04	% Share	Scarcity
1. Bucuresti Central	1,764,418	80.31	1
2. Bucuresti Domenii	37,011	1.685	47.7
3. Bucuresti Finante	54,722	2.491	32.2
4. Gara Cotroceni	4,631	0.211	381.0
5. Gara Filaret	1,229	0.056	1,435.6
6. Gara de Nord	67,623	3.078	26.1
7. Bucuresti Parchet	4,710	0.214	374.6
8. Prefectura Ilfov	53	0.0024	33,290.9
9. Bucuresti No. 1	10,331	0.47	170.8
10. Bucuresti No. 2	27,656	1.259	63.8
11. Bucuresti No. 3	34,520	1.571	51.1
12. Bucuresti No. 4	63.103	2.872	28.0
13. Bucuresti No. 5	31,122	1.417	56.7
14. Bucuresti No. 7	31,814	1.448	55.5
15. Bucuresti No. 8	27,224	1.239	64.8
16. Bucuresti No.10	24,842	1.131	71.0
17. Bucuresti No.12	2,925	0.133	603.2
18. Bucuresti No.13	4,093	0.186	431.1
19. Bucuresti No.14	4,981	0.227	354.2

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imperforate sheet commemorating the Helsinki Agreement's 10th anniversary, was sold not through the post offices, but through the Philatelist's Association of Romania, for 393 Lei, rather than its 10 Lei face value. One wonders how a new issue can be officially sold at a much higher price than its face value and what happens to the 3,830% instant profit? Under these circumstances, we should not expect to see the imperforate Helsinki souvenir sheet affixed on a cover and used as 10 Lei postage, but if this was not its intended purpose, can it be called a postal item?

During visits to Romania, I often asked clerks selling postage stamps if they also had souvenir sheets. Not only did they never have any, but some admitted that they did not even know about their existence. Thus, it is no wonder that some postal clerks take care not to deface with their handstamps what they believe to be pretty propaganda labels affixed on some covers.

I collect these souvenir sheets, but only if they are postally used on cover. In a few instances, having received on mail uncancelled sheets, and considering them of no philatelic value in this condition, I soaked them off and returned them to the sender. After some months, the same souvenir sheets would be back on another cover. Again the stamps affixed nearby would be obliterated, but the sheet once more would remain uncancelled. After yet one more return, I would only see the same sheet on the next letter, a bit worn by repeated use, but still uncancelled. One sheet travelled back and forth, crossing the Atlantic several times, always returning uncancelled, until I got sick of it and destroyed it.

These kinds of cases are exceptions, the majority of souvenir sheets affixed on covers are cancelled. Nevertheless, this proves that many postal clerks don't recognize them as postal items, valid for paying postage, because they are not sold at the post offices and because they see them very rarely affixed on mail.

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Inverted overprint appears on Hungarian Harvester issue

By Dr. John H. Jenny

Reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS JANUARY 30, 1984

The breakup of the Austrian Empire is a most interesting period not only in classical history but in the history of philately.

New republics were created, and the old empires and kingdoms disappeared. The map of Europe showed new and renewed countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, as well as enlarged areas of Italy, Serbia and Romania.

During this period, many occupying countries used the postal practice of overprinting indigenous stamps. These overprints often carried the name of the occupying country, its coat of arms, new values and other identifying insignia.

When Hungary and its southern provinces were occupied by the Serbian Armed Forces, it was necessary to set up postal services.

In the city of Temesvar (now Timisoara in the Romanian area known as Timis) and in the surrounding areas, Hungarian stamps were overprinted by the Serbian postal authorities.

During the period immediately following World War I, Vienna was a haven for the sale and trading of philatelic items. The city was visited by businessmen in all areas of trade.

Many times during that period, when national currencies fluctuated greatly from day to day, postage stamps were used in lieu of the inflated currencies.

In this clandestine trade practice, stamps of countries which prohibited the export of philatelic items frequently appeared.

A fascinating story of the discovery of the inverted overprint in the Hungarian series known as Scott 9N1-9N4 was told to me by Otto Wlaschim of New York City.

This inverted 30-filler overprint on the Hungary 2f Harvester stamp was discovered by Otto Wlaschim.

Otto's father was a stamp dealer in Prague (then known as Bohemia). Prior to the hostilities and sensing the mood of the times, Wlaschim moved his business to Vienna (circa 1899).

When young Otto returned from military service in 1919, he joined his father in the stamp business.

Among those who visited the stamp shop in Vienna was a philatelist from Budapest, Hungary. On one of his visits, he brought a lot of Temesvar overprints. These stamps were in full sheets of 100, and the man sold the Wlaschims five full sheets of each value.

After several years of retailing the first 400 sets of the five values, Otto Wlaschim noticed that the next sheet had an inverted overprint of the "30 filler" on the 2-filler Harvester stamp of Hungary.

After that, the Wlaschims sold only the four stamps in the set of the Temesvár overprints and kept the sheet with the inverted overprint.

The Wlaschims tried to verify the authenticity of the overprint by contacting the postal authorities in Budapest. The authorities informed them that "on orders of the government" all the overprint plates were destroyed, and no material was available for authenticating.

There was no doubt in the minds of the Wlaschims or with other dealers that the sheet with the inverted overprint was genuine. The man who sold them the sheets had not even known of its existence.

Some of the overprinted stamps were sold in Vienna, while others were sold at auction. A partial sheet of 85 stamps is still in the possession of Wlaschim.

The inverted overprint was listed in Scott catalog around 1940 as 9N2a after the sheet of stamps was submitted to the Scott organization for inspection.

A similar invert appears on the 50f on 20f stamp of the Charles IV issue. ■

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Editors of philatelic magazines and club bulletins are invited to help the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES by publishing reviews.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

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R. Phil. Stud., 1983, VII, 4

30 - 10 b. blue and black
31 - 20 b. blue and black
32 - 30 b. blue and black
33 - 40 b. yellowish-brown and black
34 - 50 b. yellowish-brown and black
35 - 1 l. yellowish-brown and black
36 - 2 l. gray and black
37 - 3 l. gray and black
38 - 4 l. gray and black
39 - 5 l. green and black
40 - 6 l. green and black
41 - 7 l. green and black
42 - 8 l. rose and black
43 - 9 l. rose and black
44 - 10 l. rose and black

NOTE: As above, the first color indicates the paper color while the second color, which is always black, refers to the printing. The watermark consists of the royal coat-of-arms (35 by 24 mm.), flanked by two lions, at the bottom of which is a ribbon inscribed "Nihil Sine Deo". It is not listed and/or illustrated by any Romanian catalogue.

1911. 28 by 50 mm. Effigy. Perf. 11½.

45 - 10 b. gray
46 - 30 b. gray
47 - 50 b. gray
48 - 1 l. brown
49 - 3 l. brown
50 - 4 l. brown
51 - 5 l. brown
52 - ,10 l. brown.

NOTE: A copy of the 50 b. (Nr. 47) is sage green instead of the listed gray and is perforated 13½ x 11½ instead of 11½.

All the above revenues were obliterated mostly by pen, with black ink, with a signature, a date, a straight line or crossing lines. Sometimes administrative markings were utilized. At other times these revenues were invalidated by punching holes.

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The Municipal Revenue Stamps of Timişoara

MIRCEA TELEGUŢ, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timişoara, Romania

In 1919, following the end of World War I part of the province of Banat, including its main administrative city, Timişoara, as well as the provinces of Transylvania and Crişana, were reunited with Romania. The new administration had to overcome many initial difficulties. One fiscal measure taken was issuance of a series of revenue stamps to pay the Timişoara municipality for various services. These labels are not postage stamps, but rather receipts attesting to payment of taxes or fees.

These revenue stamps were designed by Desiderius Sinkovits (1888—1930), a famous graphic artist of Timisoara. Besides its denomination, each displays the inscription: "TIMBRU FISCAL COMUNAL TIMIŞOARA" (Municipal Fiscal Stamp Timisoara) and various symbolic illustrations. Printed by photogravure, they are perforated 11½, some of them quite badly.

The 1919 issue consists of six denominations. The vertical format ones, measuring 31 by 40 mm., are the 25 bani black; 50 bani, blue; 1 leu, yellow, and 10 lei red. The horizontal format stamps measure 47 by 31 mm. and include the 2.50 lei dark blue and 5 lei green illustrating a train arriving to a city.

Some years later, new stamps, designed by the same artist, were introduced. They measure 30 to 32 by 41 mm., depending of perforation. The 3 lei, yellow brown depicts Hermes, the 8 lei, black, pictures a female symbolizing Justice while the 200 lei, green, shows a replica of the famous sculpture, "The Wolf with Romulus and Remus". Such a monument was erected in Timisoara on April 23, 1926. It spotlights the Roman ancestry of the Romanian people, and soon came to symbolize this city. Therefore, at least the highest denomination of this series, and probably the others as well, were issued around 1926.

Other fiscals inscribed "ACHITAT TAXA COMUNALĂ TIMIŞOARA" and the denomination, illustrating a coat-of-arms in a circular frame, are also known. These are the 5 lei, red, and 10 lei, green. These measure 27 to 28 by 36 mm., depending of perforation and are perforated 11½

Labels of a similar nature have also been used by other municipalities, in Romania as well as abroad. Revenue, Cinderella and some "local" collectors avidly seek them.

Notice to the Romanian Philatelic Clubs

County chapters of the Philatelists Association of Romania (Filialele Judeţene A.F.R.) which are missing any issues of the Romanian Philatelic Studies, should send a note to the editor indicating which ones are required. They will receive free copies for their libraries.

BACK ISSUES

The Romanian Philatelic Club still has some back issues. These feature interesting and useful studies. Members who have joined the club in the recent years but missed the older issues may order those listed on the front page. They will learn the latest research discoveries in the many fields of Romanian philately (as presented in the bibliography published in this issue). Furthermore, such orders bring much needed funds into the club's treasury.

Send your order to the editor, making your check payable to the Romanian Philatelic Club.

Inadmissible Postage Stamps

Dr. W. Elsner 200 Rue de la Loi, B 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Occasionally, postage stamps have been the subject of dispute between postal administrations of various countries. The theme of the stamps, the occasion for which a commemorative was issued or simply the political situation all have given rise to protests. In few cases, stamps issued by Western countries were frowned upon by the Romanian authorities. This took place during a period which was later to become known as the "Cold War".

1. The United Nations proclaimed the year 1960 as "World Refugee Year". About 70 postal administrations issued stamps to denote this. The Romanian postal authorities took offense and adopted two different methods of protest:

a) Mail with such stamps was returned. Covers bearing "World Refugee Year" stamps from Austria, Israel, Switzerland and West Germany have been seen which received a rubber stamp, measuring 70 by 36 mm., with the following text:

"RETOUR
AFFRANCHIE AVEC
TIMBRES NON ADMIS"

(Return/Franked with/Inadmissible stamps). The color of this rubber cachet is normally red, although its existence in black has also been reported.

b) Mail bearing the "World Refugee Year" stamps was also delivered to Romanian addresses. In such cases the offensive stamps were hand-stamped with a rubber cachet reading:

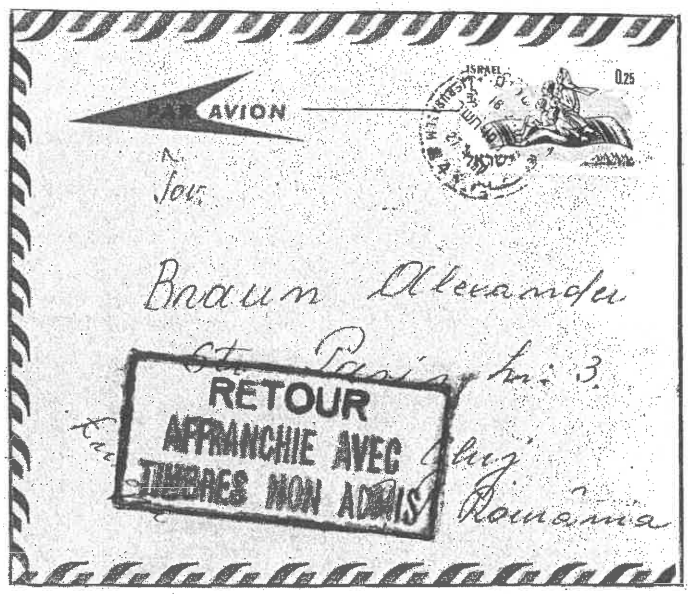
"LUPTIND PENTRU PACE
ASIGURAM VIATA, LINISTEA SI
FERICIREA COPIILOR NOSTRI"

(By fighting for peace/we assure the life, the calm and/the happiness of our children). Two types of this rubber cachet existed. One measured 50 by 24 mm., and the other 70 by 22 mm.

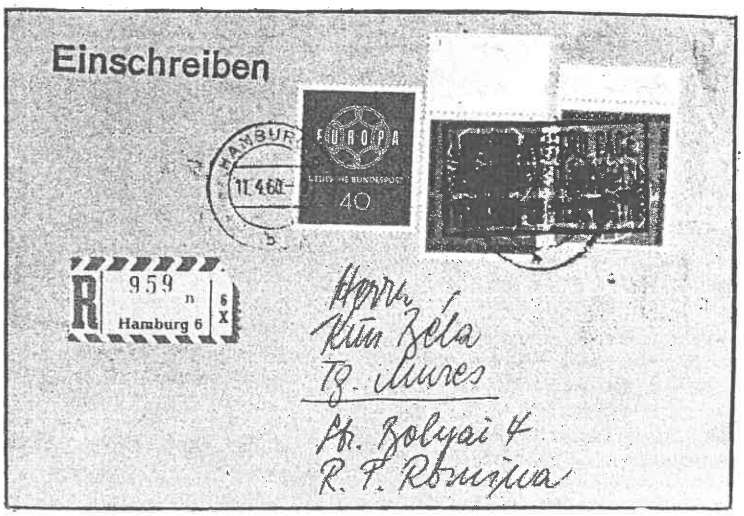
Slogan handstamp used to deface inadmissible "W.R.Y." stamps.

West German stamp remembering the refugees created by World War II.

Stamps issued to denote the "World Refugee Year".



Cover with a stamp issued by Israel, denoting the "World Refugee Year".



Cover with West German "W.R.Y." stamps defaced with slogan handstamp.

Covers with one or the other of these cachets are known from Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and West Germany.

Rom. Phil. Stud., WG, VI, 1982, nr. 1

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, May 1981

Magura: A Local Post in Transylvania

by Ludovic Dengel

The Magura holiday resort is located thirty kilometers southeast of the city of Cluj-Napoca, and south of a brook called Racataul, a tributary of the Somesul Rece River. Situated at an altitude of 1,400 meters, the resort is on the territory of the Maguri village.

The resort, which no longer exists as such, could be reached from Cluj-Napoca via Gilau, and from Huedin via Calatele and Belis. The last eight kilometers of the road wind through a beautiful mountain region covered by fir trees.

The resort of Magura was started with a few hunting lodges built by wealthy people from Cluj, who, with their families, would spend the hot summers in this pretty place. With the increasing numbers of tourists, more houses were built, the community was enlarged, and a restaurant-inn was opened. Figure 1 shows part of the Maguri village itself; Figure 2 is a postcard showing the restaurant and two of the chalets of the resort near the small town. The name of the village to this day is Maguri, but the resort's name, which appears on the stamps described here, is "Magura."

At the insistence of the chalet owners (who, because of their social status, had good relations with the authorities in Cluj), a special postal service for Magura was established in the spring or early summer of 1903. This service handled mail in both directions between the Magura resort and the nearest state-run post office. Unlike the other local posts of Transylvania, this service was not private, but state-owned and operated.

Figure 1. General view of part of the Maguri village. The houses are sparse ana spread over a large area.

At Magura the mail was collected, handled, and distributed by employees of the resort administration, who were also state employees (even though not employees of the Department of Posts). Even an employee of the Department of Forestry named Bors for a while acted as a courier between Magura and the nearest state post office.

The post's local character is determined by the fact that the semi-official stamps issued by the postal directorate of Cluj had only local validity, serving only the Magura posts. Items mailed to and from Magura had to carry postage stamps issued by the Hungarian state and valid throughout the country, as well as Magura stamps representing a surcharge applied to cover costs incurred because of difficult road conditions between the resort area and the nearest

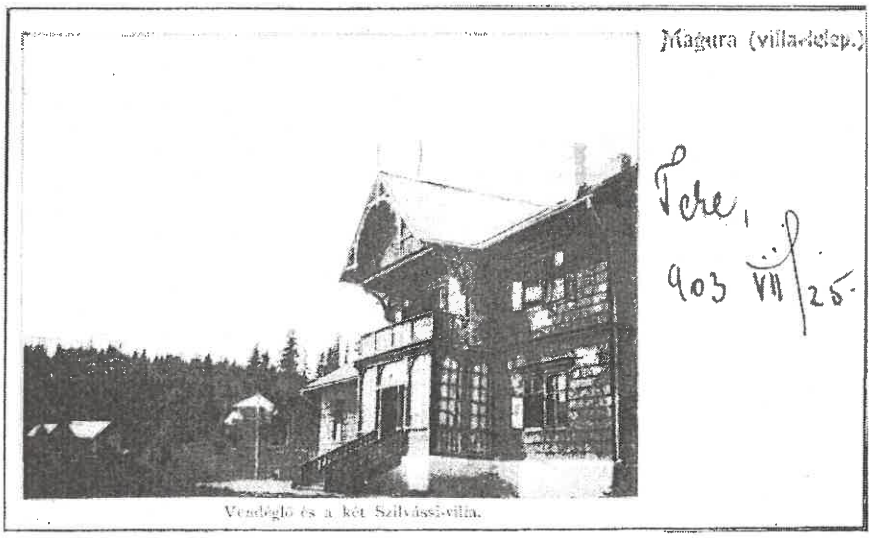


Figure 2. Illustrated postcard, used in 1903, showing the restaurant-inn and the two chalets of the Szilvassy family.

Ludovic Dengel is noted for his collections of "Local Posts of Transylvania," "Foreign Posts in the Romanian Principalities," and "Romanian Classics and Post-Classics." He is a former editor of Der Briefmarken-Bote, *and has donated most of his collection and research notes to the future Museum of Romanian Posts. The author lives in Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania.*

Figure 3. Letter mailed on August 23, 1903, from Magura to Budapest, with a 10-filler Hungarian postage stamp and two Magura stamps (2- and 4-filler), with the Josikatelep post office cancellation and a Budapest arrival marking on the back.

official post office.

There were two Magura issues, each with two values. The first values, issued in 1903, were printed in Cluj by the Praegerdruck Company, in negative: The text, frame, and ornaments are white and the remainder of the stamp is colored. The paper was unwatermarked, and the design size is 17.6 x 22.5 mm. The values, colors, and intended uses are the following: 2-filler, white on dark green, for postcards and newspapers; 4-filler, white on red-purple, for letters.

The stamps are perforated 10½ x 11. The text on each value, in five lines, reads: "M. KIR. KINCSTARI/ NYARALOTELEP/ 2 (or 4)/ FILLER/ MAGURA" ("M.(agyar) K.(iralyi) Kincstari Nyaralotelep" is Hungarian meaning "Royal Hungarian Treasury's Resort Colony.")

The number of stamps printed is unknown, but seems to have been very small as copies are extremely scarce. The *Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue* of 1974 estimates 1,200 sets; it is presumed that there were 100 stamps in a sheet.

The state post office from which the Magura mail was picked up and deposited during that period was a village called Josikatelep (today called Balcesti, in the Belis parish, west of the village of Maguri). The stamps of the 1903 issue were canceled with the device of this office, because although the Magura resort station was state-owned, it did not have its own canceler. The Magura stamps were affixed near the Hungarian postage stamps (on mail originating in Magura) and obliterated together.

The Josikatelep state postal agency's cancel is a double-circle type (Figure 3), with outer and inner diameters of 30 and 19 mm, respectively. The top, between the two circles, is inscribed "JOSIKATELEP," which means nearly the same as Josikafalva, present-day Balcesti. (In Hungarian, "telep" means colony or settlement, while "falva" means village.) The bottom, between the circles, shows an arabesque ornament. In the cancel's center, in a bridge, is the date. Inside the smaller circle, as on other Hungarian cancels of that time, is the royal crown at the top, and a number or a letter on the bottom (it seems to be a capital "N" in this case). The rest of the cancel, except for the bridge, is filled with parallel vertical lines.

Figure 3 shows a cover with an official Hungarian stamp and two Magura stamps. It was franked for philatelic purposes with a 4-filler and a 2-filler stamp — more than required — but it was postally used, and has a Budapest arrival cancellation on the back.

In 1904, the Postal Directorate of Cluj revoked Magura's authorization of operation, but in 1911, owing to the growth of the resort, a local postal service again was authorized and a second set of the same denominations of Magura stamps was issued. The old cliches were reconditioned, which resulted in more carefully executed stamps. These stamps were again printed in negative, but in a different color from the first issue. On unwatermarked paper, the stamps are perforated 16½, and described as follows: 2-filler, white on light green, for postcards; 4-filler, white on light green, for letters.

Both values were printed in the same color. The number of stamps printed for this second issue, as for the first, is unknown. Compared with the 1903 is-

Figure 4. Hungarian postal card addressed to Szekeljudvarhelj (Odorhei), with a 2-filler Magura stamp added to the 5-filler imprinted stamp, both obliterated with the Reketo postmark.

Figure 5. Letter addressed to Szekeljudvarhelj, with a 4-filler Magura stamp added to a 10-filler Hungarian adhesive, both obliterated with the Reketo cancelmark, and a Szekeljudvarhelj arrival marking on the back.

sue, the letters, numerals, and ornaments of the 1911 issue are thinner and clearer.

In 1911, the official post office designated for connection with Magura was that in the village of Reketo, located east of Magura.

The cancellation used in conjunction with the second issue is rectangular with cut corners, and measures 31.5 x 23.3 mm. Inside the frame, the three-line text is: "REKETO"/ the date: year (last 3 digits), month (first 3 letters), day, and "d.u." ("d.u." is the abbreviation for "delutan," meaning afternoon)/ POSTAI UGYN. ("Postai Ugynokseg" means "Postal Agency"). Presumably, there was also a cancellation with "d.e." ("delelot," meaning "before noon" or "morning").

In the village of Reketo (today called Magura-Racatau), a state postal agency was established in 1911. On all mail handled there, the above-described cancellation was applied. The Magura resort station still did not have its own canceler, as it was not an official post office run by the Department of Posts.

The postcard and the cover illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, both with the same date (October 23, 1911) and the same addressee, were prepared for philatelic purposes but were postally used. The postal card shown in Figure 4 has a "Szekeljudvarhelj" arrival marking on the front, while the cover shown in Figure 5 has the same arrival marking on the back. These items verify that the extra charge for a postcard (added to the official postage rate) was two filler (in Magura stamps), and four filler for a letter.

The Magura stamps are interesting because, although for local use, unlike other local stamps they were issued and administered by the state. AP

References

*Williams, L.N. and M. *Hotel Posts of Hungary & Roumania*, London, 1962.

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REVIEW:

MARINA

Published by the Constanta chapter of the Philatelists' Association of Romania (P.O. Box 111, 8700 Constanta, Romania) in June 1981, in Romanian language. Its 40 well written, diversified and richly illustrated pages contain articles, notes and information regarding maritime philately: "125th Anniversary of the Founding of the European Commission for the Danube" by Carmen Atanasiu; "Navigation and Shipbuilding, Part 9" by Titu Nicolescu; "Shipboard Cancellations Used by the Romanian Maritime Service, Part 2" by Silviu Dragomir; "The Training Vessel, 'Mircea', Part 5" by Francisc Hosciuc; "Christophor Columbus, Part 5" by Mariana Atanasiu; "Marco Polo" by Virgiliu Moroianu, the editor-in-chief; "Postage Stamps with a Maritime Theme" unsigned; "Philatelic Novelties with a Maritime Theme" unsigned; "The Discovery of West Africa by the Portuguese" and "Vasco de Gama", both by Virgiliu Moroianu; "The Oceanic Research Vessel D/E OBI" by Iulius Prędusel; "Passenger Ships" unsigned; "Military Ships" unsigned; "Submarines" unsigned; "Lighthouses in Romania" and "Friendship Visits"; "of USS Miller and USS Caron to Constanta", both by Tiberiu Petrilla the editor; "The Last Voyage of the Polish Yacht S/Y DAL" by Stefan Jakucewicz; "I.K. Aivazovski and his Ocean Paintings" by Valeriu Avramescu, as well as other articles.

CENSOR MARKINGS USED IN TIMISOARA

MIRCEA TELEGUT, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

During World Wars I and II, the contents of all Romanian mail was censored. This operation was attested to by applying censor markings or printed bands which resealed opened envelopes. Depending upon their locations, the various localities had military or civilian censorship bureaus.

The majority of the markings show the locality's name as well as the number of the censor or the bureau. Others, usually linear in shape, have only one word: "CENZURAT" (censored). The printed bands, with their various texts, do not, however, show the locality where the censorship operation took place.

During and after World War I, in Timisoara, various censor bureaus used markings with texts in German language, bilingual (in German and Hungarian), in Hungarian, in Serbian, and finally in Romanian.

The 1914-1918 Period

1. "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE/TEMESVAR", [I.(mperial) a.(nd) R.(oyal) Mail Censorship/ . . .] in German. Frameless, it is usually applied in red. Measuring 65 x 12 mm., it is found on a letter dated July 17, 1917 and franked with a 10 Filler Hungarian stamp (Sower).

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE
TEMESVÁR

2. "UBER-PRUFT/Felulvizsgalva /TEMESVAR", (censored/ . . .) a bilingual text in German and Hungarian. Stamped in red, and measuring 50 x 22 mm., it is found on a cover dated May 12, 1916, franked with an Austrian 10 Heller red stamp.

ÜBERPRÜFT
Felülvizsgálva
TEMESVÁR

3. "CS. ES KIR. ELLENORZO BIZOTTSAG 1915 VIII 31 TEMESVAR" (Imperial and Royal Control Commission . . .) in Hungarian. Usually in red, but sometimes found in violet. It is the only dated censor marking and is 43/42 mm. in diameter (double circle, the space between the two circles often filled in with ink). It is found on covers and postcards franked with Hungarian stamps, dated between March 16, 1915 to January 16, 1916.

4. "FELULVIZSGALT/(TEMESVAR)" (controlled, censored/ . . .), in Hungarian. Stamped in red, measuring 45 x 11.5 mm., it is found on a cover dated September 15, 1915.

FELÜLVIZSGÁLT
(TEMESVÁR)

5. "KATONAI ELLENORZO BIZOTTSAG" (Military Control Commission). In Hungarian, 33 mm. in diameter, it is found on a cover dated May 14, 1915, without the town name which seems to have been removed. This marking is also known with the name in its center.

The 1918-1920 Period

6. "TZENZURIVANO U TEMISVARU" (Censored in Timisoara). In Serbian with Cyrillic lettering, it is 32 mm. in diamter, applied in black or red. It was utilized by the Serbian occupation forces from November 10, 1918 to July 27, 1919, when they left the city, and is found on mail with Hungarian or Romanian stamps.

7. "CENZURA ROMANA TIMISOARA" (Romanian Censorship Timisoara) is the first Romanian language censor marking used in the province of Banat. Mostly applied in violet, but sometimes red, it is 32 mm. in diameter. It was used starting August 3, 1919, when the Romanian armies entered Timisoara (the Romanian administration was installed on August 20, 1919). Censorship of domestic correspondence was supposed to have been discontinued on July 15, 1920, and that for mail coming from abroad on September 8, 1920, but this marking, on both domestic and foreign mail, was used as late as 1921. I have found it on mail used from August 29, 1919 to October 3, 1919.

The 1941-1945 Period

8. "CENZURAT" (censored). This frameless, linear marking, measure 42 x 5 mm. Its "antique" letters are applied in black or violet. This type of marking was applied on censored mail in various cities, one being Timisoara. It is found on covers and postcards dated from August 4, 1941 to September 21, 1941.

CENZURAT

9. "CENZURAT TIMISOARA 10". Linear, with a 50-52 x 8.5 mm. frame, it displays the number of the censor or censor bureau on the right. Applied in red or violet, it is found on mail used in 1941-42. The following numbers are known: 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 31.

CENZURAT TIMIŞOARA 10

10. "13 Cenzurat Timisoara 13". Linear, with a 55-56 x 12-13 mm. double frame, it is applied in black. It bears the number of the censor or censor bureau on the left and on the right. It is found on mail used in 1943 with the following numbers: 2, 4 and 13.

13 Cenzurat Timişoara 13

11. "18 Cenzurat Timisoara 18". Linear, with a 53-54 x 10-11 mm. single frame, it is applied in black. It is found on mail used in 1943 (numbers 14, 18, 28), 1944 (12, 13, 31, 35) and 1945 (4, 28, 36, 37, 40, 41).

18 Cenzurat Timisoara 18

12. "Cenzura militara/postala/Jud. Timis-Tor." (Military censorship/ for mail / Timis-Tor. County). With a 34 x 18 mm. frame, it is found in black, red or violet. This type of marking was usually used in county seats. In the county of Timis-Torontal this was the city of Timisoara. It is found on mail dated August 23, 1941.

Cenzura militară
poştală
Jud. Timiş-Tor.

R. Phil. Stud., 1978, II, nr. 3

Reprinted by permission of the American Philatelic Society from the April 1978 issue of THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST.

Hohe Rinne

A Local Post in Transylvania (1895-1926)

by George Pataki

In 1894, in the township of Cristian, Sibiu county, Transylvania, which is in the heart of the Carpathian mountains, a beautiful resort area was organized with several guest houses. The management asked the Hungarian postal authorities (at that time, Transylvania was under Hungarian administration) to open a post office there. The request was denied but a private post office was approved in the village of Hohe Rinne (Paltinis in Romanian), and in 1895, the first local post stamps were printed.

KURHAUS
auf der
HOHEN RINNE

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Every letter and postcard leaving or arriving at Hohe Rinne was handled by the employees of the "Siebenburgischer Karpathenverein" company and had to have a local post stamp affixed, to cover the cost of transportation to or from the nearest official post office. In addition to this "hotel post stamp," as it is sometimes called, a regular postal stamp was required for official postage.

Until 1907, the nearest official post office was Keresztenysziget (the Hungarian name of Cristian). From 1908 to 1918 it was Nagy Szeben, called Sibiu (in Romanian) from 1919 to 1926. Regular postal cancellations bearing these different town names were used to cancel the official stamps, while the local post stamps were canceled with the Hohe Rinne resort area cancels.

Figure 1.

Hungarian stamps were in use until 1918. After that date, Transylvania became part of Romania, and Romanian stamps were used.

On illustrated postcards the local post stamps were often applied on the picture side, while on letters they were affixed to the back of the envelope. This practice made it clear that the local stamps and the official stamps belonged to two separate postal administrations.

There were nine issues of the Hohe Rinne stamps (the 1898 issue was not put in use), all on unwatermarked paper. Some of the stamps were issued imperforate, others perforated 11½, except the first issue, which was vertically perforated 11. Perforated stamps with

Figure 4.

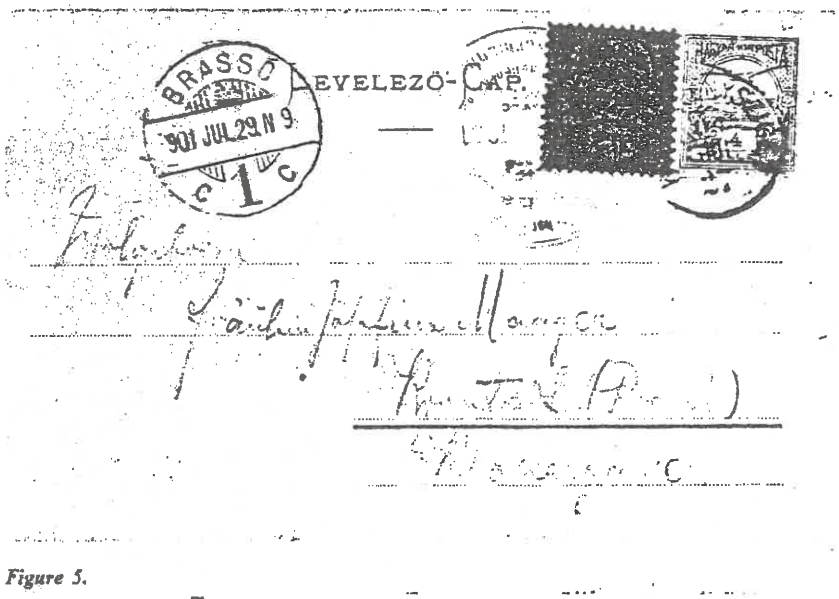

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

one or two adjacent straight edges are from sheet margins.

In the "Value" column of the table, the text in parentheses does not appear on the stamps; it only indicates for what the stamp was sold.

In 1910, an envelope was also issued with a printed stamp of 1910 on the upper-left corner. The paper was white

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

No.	Year	Value	Color: print & paper	Design size in mm	Stamps in sheet	Quant. issued	Used on
1	1895	2 kreuzer	black on yellow	28x23	coil?	500	cards & letters
2	1896	2 kreuzer	black on grey	27x23	1	1,000	cards & letters
3	1898	2 kreuzer	black on yellow	27x23	1	1,000	cards & letters
4a	1900	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	12	4,800	cards
4b	1900	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	12	200	cards
5a	1900	4 heller	black on yellow	18x22½	12	4,800	letters
5b	1900	4 heller	black on yellow	18x22½	12	200	letters
6a	1903	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	110	8,000	cards
6b	1903	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	110	2,000	letters
7a	1906	2 heller	black on red-purple	18x22½	110	8,000	cards
7b	1906	2 heller	black on red-purple	18x22½	110	2,000	cards
8	1906	5 heller	black on light-green	18x22½	110	10,000	letters
9	1909	2 heller	black on purple	18x22½	50	2,000	cards
10	1909	5 heller	black on green	18x22½	50	2,000	letters
11	1910	3 (heller)	brown on white	38x25	4	22,860	cards
12	1910	5 (heller)	dark green on white	38x25	4	14,960	letters
13	1923	3 (30 bani)	blue on white	38x25	4	5,360	cards
14	1923	5 (50 bani)	red-brown on white	38x25	4	5,360	letters
15	1924	(50 bani)	green on white	39½x32½	10	30,000	cards
16	1924	(1 leu)	red on white	39½x32½	10	30,000	letters

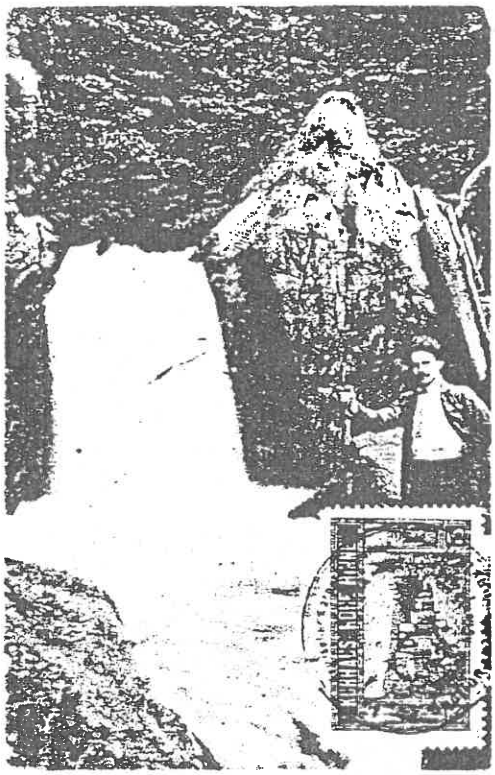

Figure 10.

Figure 11.

and the printed stamp olive-green, without any imprinted value. Sheets of writing paper were also in use, with stamp impressions similar to those on the envelope, but with rosettes in the lower corner boxes (where the stamps have their value inscribed).

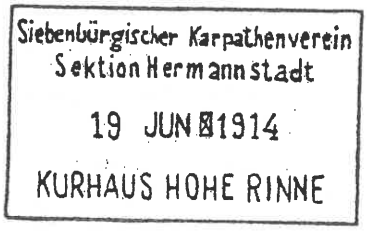

Figure 12.

Figure 13.

Figure 14.

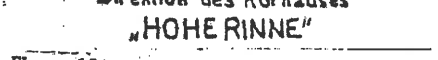

Figure 15.

In 1926, the Romanian postal administration abolished the Hohe Rinne local (hotel) post and 1933 established in Paltinis an official post office whose activity was later terminated as unprofitable.

The indicators listed in the table are not prices but relative values showing the scarcity of those items.

Fig.	Cancels used Fig.	Perforation	Value Indicators			Remarks
			Unused	Used	On Cover	
1	2	vertical 11	250	150	200	Printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
3	4	imperf.	75	60	100	Bisected vert. on cards. Individually printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
3	4	imperf.	40	50	125	Favor cancels, no postal usage.
5	4	11 1/2	35	25	30	The Hungarian currency was changed from gulden and kreuzer to kronen and heller (filler).
—	4	imperf.	200	50	75	Printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
6	4, 7	11 1/2	35	25	35	
—	4, 7	imperf.	100	50	87.50	
8	4, 7	11 1/2	17.50	10	15	Has also the year of issue: 1903. Printed by W. Krafft.
—	4, 7	imperf.	50	30	40	
9	4, 7	11 1/2	17.50	10	15	Has also the year of issue: 1906. Printed by W. Krafft.
—	4, 7	imperf.	50	30	40	
—	4, 7	11 1/2	15	10	17.50	
—	7	"	75	40	60	Has also the year of issue: 1909. Printed by W. Krafft.
—	7	"	75	40	100	
10	4, 7, 12	"	2.50	2	5	Printed in Sibiu by J. Drotleff.
11	4, 7, 12	"	2.50	2	5	
10	7	"	7.50	6	7.50	Printed in Sibiu by J. Drotleff.
11	7	"	7.50	6	10	
13	14, 15	"	1.75	1.75	4	With effigies of the founders of the resort area: Dr. Carl Conradt and Robert Gutt.
13	14, 15	"	1.75	1.75	5	Printed by Krafft & Drotleff.

R. Phil. Stud., Ny, 1981, V, nr. 3

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Bistra: A Local Post in Transylvania

by Emanoil Munteanu

At the beginning of this century, Bistra was a resort area located in picturesque surroundings of pine woods. During the summer, the Department of Forestry would let chalets for use by tourists in both the upper and the lower summer colonies (Figure 1). The resort area, located in Alba County, forty-eight kilometers south of the city Sebes, is situated on the western slopes of the mountains near the Sebes River. The upper colony is situated at an altitude of 1,419 meters, and the lower colony at 1,321 meters. The colonies were used from 1901 to 1914.

Tourist services were administered by the Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania (Siebenburgischer Karpathenverein — SKV), which initiated and maintained a postal service.

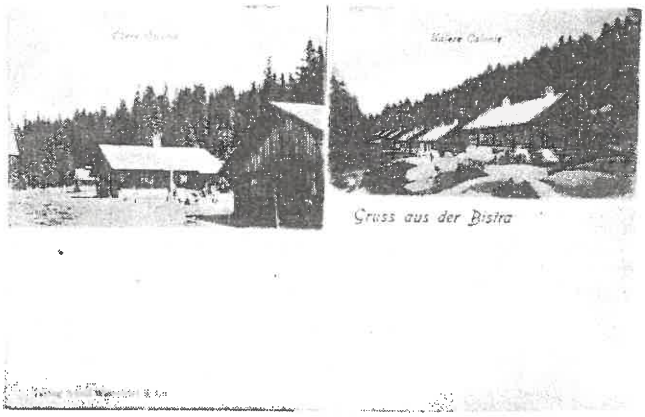


Figure 1.

Figure 2.

The first unimpeachable information on the activity of the Bistra posts is found in the weekly, *Der Unterwald*, No. 25, June 24, 1906, published in Sebes. According to Dr. N. Cristea, Sr., this issue announced that regular transport service during July and August would be instituted. Horse-drawn buggies ("Bistrawagen," which also carried two to three passengers) would leave Sebes (Muehlbach in German, Szaszsebes in Hungarian) Sundays and Thursdays at 7 a.m. and arrive at Bistra at 7 p.m. Return trips would take place on Mondays and Fridays. It further specified that, "For correspondence and newspapers, 2 heller will be paid." All mail for tourists had to be addressed in care of Michael Guendisch, a merchant in Sebes, or handed to him.

To date, no covers or cards are known with Bistra stamps used in 1906.

Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, a retired attorney living in Sibiu, Transylvania, is the author of **Postal History of Sibiu** *(in Romanian), and the researcher of* **Austrian Posts in Romania.** *He is working on a manual/catalogue of advanced study entitled* **Early Postmarks Used in Transylvania and Banat.**

Figure 3.

However, the 6-heller value is known used in 1907. It appears on a postal card alongside a Hungarian government-issued stamp.

The Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania (SKV) issued two different values of Bistra stamps on two dates (Figures 2 and 3).

In 1906, 2-heller stamps appeared. They are brown on gummed yellow paper, perf 11½. In 1907, 6-heller stamps were issued; these are brown on gummed white paper, perf 11½. It is presumed that approximately 5,000 of each value were printed. The two stamps are identical, except for the denomination. The design, in a double rectangular frame with a thick outside frame and the inside frame thinner and broken in many places, bears the initials "S.K.V." (Siebenbuergischer Karpathenverein) at the top. Below it, between two arches, is written "SECTION-MUHLBACH" (Sebes section). The center depicts a fir tree with ornaments on both sides. At the bottom, the denomination ("2" or "6") and "HELLER" appear in negative, and under these is "Bistra-Post." These are the only local post stamps used in Transylvania which bear the word "Post."

The design size is 17.4 x 20.4 mm, and the stamp size is about 23 x 26 mm. The design was done by Dr. Ernst Krauss (Gustav Krauss, according to some sources), at the time president of the Sebes section of the SKV. Cliches were produced by Angerer and Goeschel, a Viennese company. The printing (in sheets of 100 stamps) was probably done by the Josef Hintz printing works in Sebes. The execution and the printing are primitive and the perforation is irregular. Reprints or counterfeits of these stamps are not known.

The 2-heller stamps prepared in 1906 were not used because of an increase in the postage fee. For this reason, no covers or cards have been found with canceled 2-heller Bistra stamps. *Der Unterwald,* No. 26, June 30, 1907, announced that postage fees for correspondence and newspapers had been increased from two to six heller, in accord with a general price increase for all services. Similarly, on January 16, 1907, Hungary increased its national rate for letters from six to ten heller.

Why couldn't three of the 2-heller stamps be used to meet the new rate? It seems that the deciding argument was that three stamps simply took too much space. As all mail had to be franked first with Hungarian stamps, postal cards, and especially picture postcards, just did not contain enough room for three extra stamps. The postcard illustrated in Figure 10, mailed from Rome, Italy, to Bistra, shows how difficult it would have been to affix three of the 2-heller stamps. The majority of the 2-heller stamps must have been destroyed, as they are very scarce.

In the philatelic press, doubt has been expressed that the Bistra local posts functioned in 1908. I maintain that this local post was active in that year, and as proof illustrate a postcard mailed to Bistra on August 22, 1908 (Figure 4).

Beginning in 1909, Johann Rilki was entrusted with the postal service. A merchant of Sebes (Sikulorum Street, No. 6), he would obliterate the Bistra stamps with a linear cancellation inscribed with his name. In 1946, he told

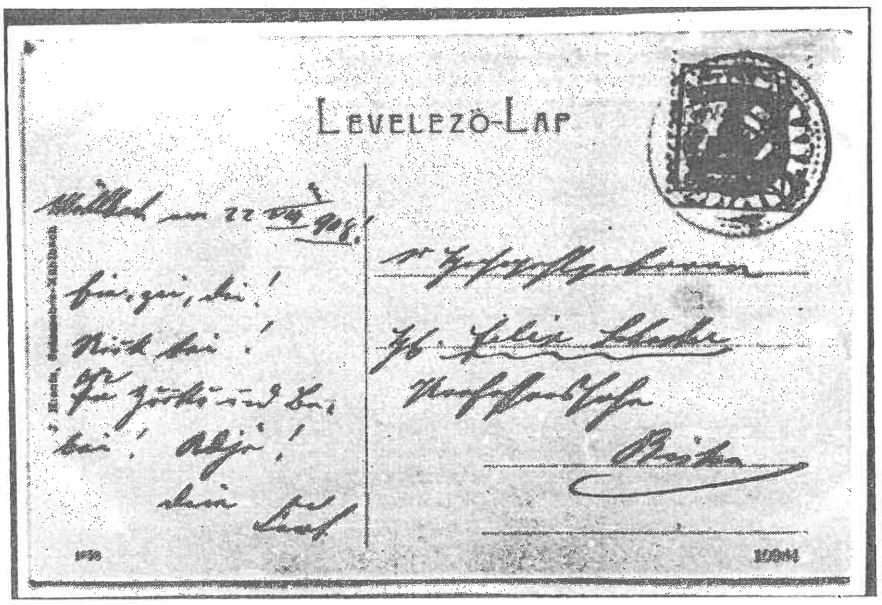


Figure 4.

Victor Chiba Tois that he received 6-heller stamps from SKV Sebes in lots of 500, and paid for each lot when requesting a new one.

According to *Der Unterwald,* No. 28, July 9, 1911, the transportation schedule was changed in that year; the

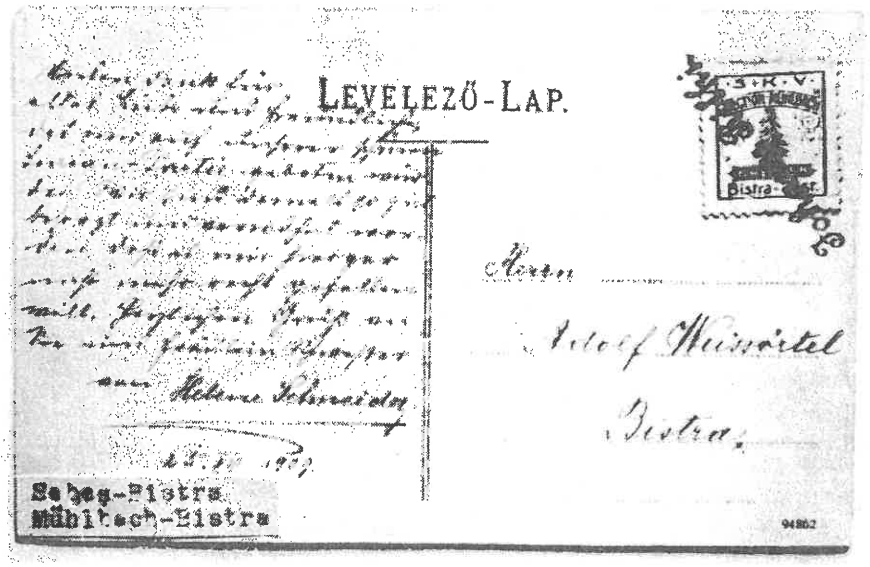


Figure 5.

buggy for Bistra left Sebes on Tuesdays and Fridays, returning on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In 1912, the first journey was on July 9. *Der Unterwald* of July 7, 1912, mentions that the 6-heller stamps for letters and newspapers could be bought in Johann Rilki's store, or at the Bistra resort from the person who handled the mail there. In Bistra, the "mailman" received and distributed postal shipments. Mail for Sebes could be received until 6:30 on the morning of the journey. Each user of the Bistra posts paid a contractual fee of five kronen per season. Employees of the Department of Forestry, however, had free-franking privileges except on packages, for which they had to pay the same reduced fees as the members of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania.

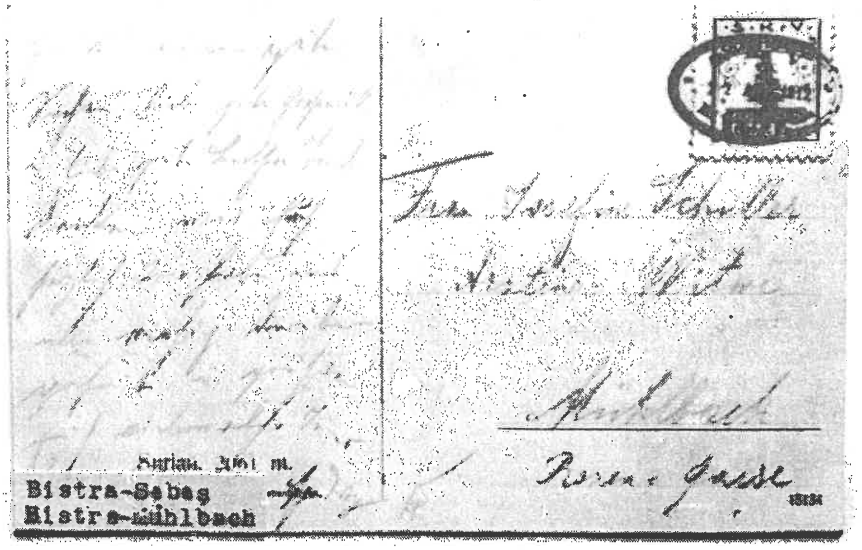


Figure 6.

For detailed fee information, readers are referred to the work of L.S. Ettre, *Hohe Rinne and Bistra* (published in 1977 by the Society for Hungarian Philately), which presents the regulations of the Bistra posts for mail and parcel service in effect in June 1912.

Transportation and postal services also became available for Tau and Sugag, villages on the Sebes-Bistra route, but evidence of postal usage from those towns is not yet known. In 1913, *Der Unterwald* (No. 31, August 3) published the following information: "The official postal authorities have opened an agency in Tau for July and August, which this year will be active starting August 1. Letters and other mail must be addressed to: Teu-L(etzte) P(ost) Szaszsebes (Tau-Last

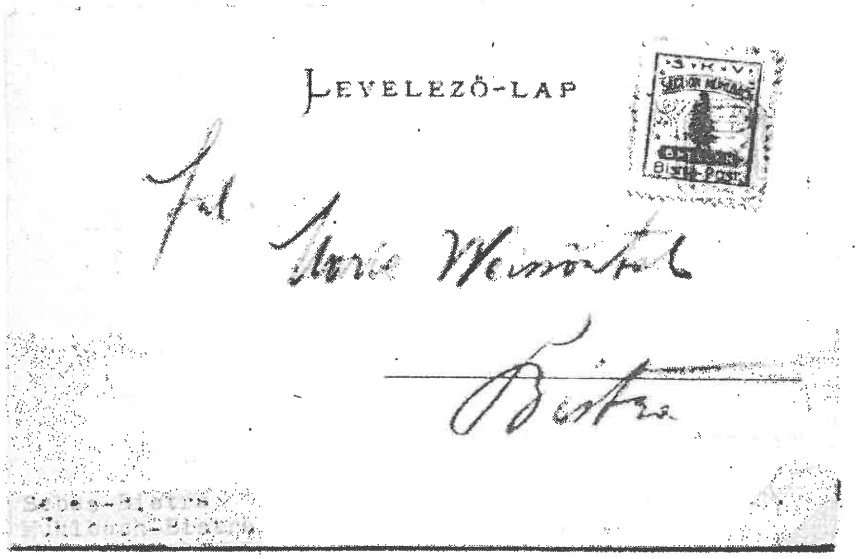


Figure 7.

Post Sebes). The Sebes Section of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania, based on a contract, has undertaken the obligation to carry mail to Tau. There, the SKV representative takes the mail for the tourists in Bistra." Nothing was said about postal fees or private stamps. Johann Rilki continued to be the person in Sebes entrusted with receiving the mail.

Der Unterwald, No. 25, 1914, in-

formed its readers that the first trip to Bistra that year would be on July 10 and the last on August 18. The journey now had a new schedule: Sebes-Tau on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Tau-Bistra on Wednesdays and Saturdays. After a three-hour rest stop in Bistra, the buggies now were scheduled to return to Sebes without stopping in Tau.

Figure 8.

That same issue of the publication also announced that "Franked correspondence and newspapers will be transported free, while those unfranked will not be accepted" ("franking" referring here to the official Hungarian stamps). The conclusion thus may be drawn that the Bistra stamps were no longer in use, and that transport of mail and newspapers to the addressees was effected without any fee other than the franking with postage stamps issued by the state. Because those items without franking were rejected, they could not be mailed by paying the fee to SKV, which had in the past performed this service based on a contractual agreement with the official posts.

The conclusion is, then, that the 6-heller Bistra stamp was used from 1907 to 1912. These stamps were affixed on

Figure 9.

postal shipments going from Sebes to Bistra and from Bistra to Sebes. The Bistra stamp also was used alone and not in conjunction with Hungarian postage stamps, on mail sent only through the local posts (Sebes to Bistra, or Bistra to Sebes; Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7). Several items coming from abroad to Bistra are known with the Bistra stamp in addition to stamps of the country of origin (Figures 8, 9, and 10).

L.N. and M. Williams, in *Hotel Posts of Hungary & Roumania* (published in 1962 in London, England), stated: "It was in 1912 that the attention of the Hungarian Post Office was drawn to the fact that the stamps

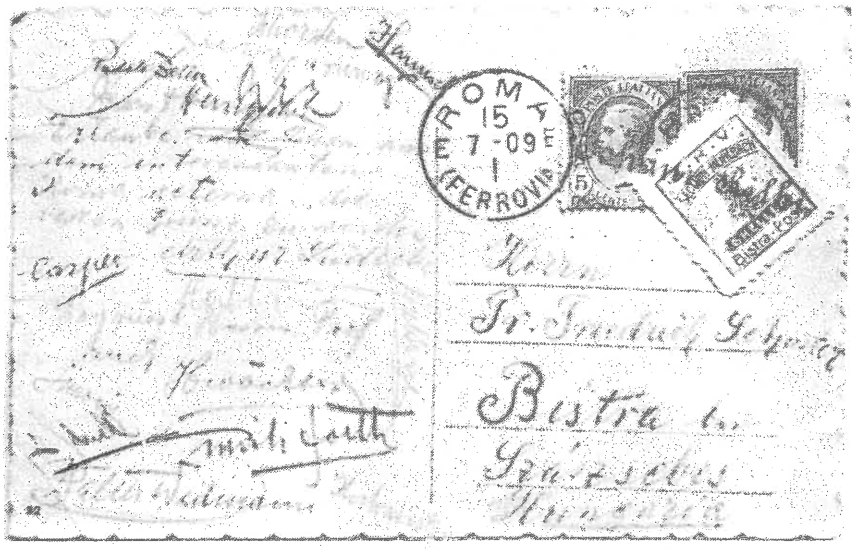
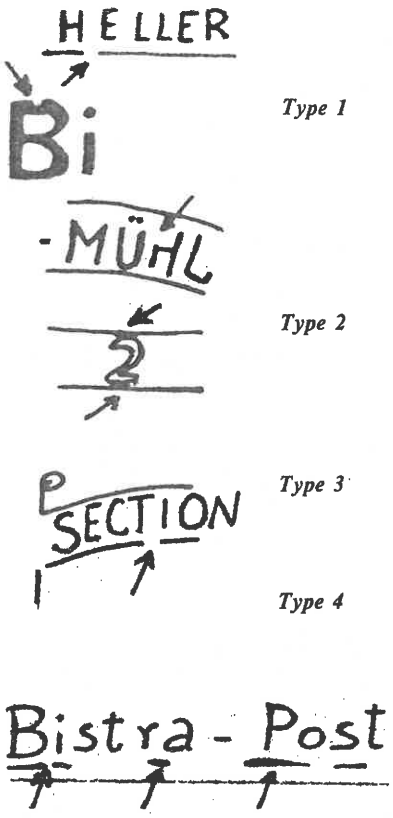


Figure 10.

were inscribed 'Bistra-Post.' Two officials arrived one day at the hotel and confiscated the entire stock of stamps; much of the stock consisted of the withdrawn 2-heller. All the stamps were sent to Budapest, where they were destroyed years later. After they had been confiscated, the S.K.V. submitted a claim to the Hungarian Post Office for compensation for loss of revenue in operating the local post. The claim was allowed and a sum of 150 kronen was



Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Figure 11.

paid in 1913, but after the outbreak of war in 1914 the hotel's horses and vehicles were commandeered for war service and no further compensation was paid."

I agree with J.L.N. Best of London, however, that — contrary to popular belief — confiscation of the Bistra local stamps by the state did not occur. First of all, such an action could not have passed unobserved by *Der Unterwald*. Secondly, the stock of Bistra stamps was in Sebes at the SKV office, and *not* in Bistra, where the confiscation supposedly took place. In Bistra there could have been only a small lot, necessary for immediate use. It also seems improbable that the state paid 150 kronen as compensation for abolishing a postal service which was considered unofficial and barely tolerated. However, the 150 kronen may have represented the fee for contractual services performed by SKV for the year of 1913 (transport of mail and newspapers).

Local postal service was discontinued completely in 1914, because of the outbreak of World War I.

Because the 2-heller Bistra stamp is very scarce, study of its types and positions on the sheet has been difficult. As was established by J.L.N. Best, there are four types of this value. Their constant characteristics are illustrated in Figure 11.

Blocks and pairs studied led me to the conclusion that a transfer block of four was used. Below are their compositions:

1 2 3 4	2 3	2 3	3 4
1 2 3 4		2 3	3 4
1 2 3 4			
1 2 3 4			

Because the material studied has been limited, positions on a sheet and number of stamps to a sheet (presumably 100) have not yet been established.

The 6-heller stamps were studied by the same English researcher who had access to a block of thirty-six stamps. I have studied a block of thirty-five stamps (in the Dengel Collection, Figure 12), and have arrived at more or less the same conclusions as J.L.N. Best. The only difference I can find is that on Type 4 of this stamp I have found a different constant characteristic (the "M" in "MUHLBACH" has its first leg broken in the middle) than the one indicated by Best (thickening of the frame line near "B" in "Bistra"), which is missing on some of the stamps of my block.

The constant characteristics of the 6-heller stamps are illustrated in Figure 13.

The type layout of the block studied by J.L.N. Best is as follows:

1	2	3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4	1	2

and a vertical strip:

2
3
4

The Dengel block is as follows:

Figure 12.

4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4
4 1 2 3 4

Other multiples studied by me include:

4 1 2	1 2 3	3 4
4 1 2	1 2 3	3 4
4 1 2	1 3	3 4

Cancellations Used on Bistra Stamps

The first type of cancellation used to obliterate the 6-heller Bistra stamp is circular with an illegible text (Figures 4 and 9). It is found on correspondence mailed in 1907 and 1908 and handled by Michael Guendisch, who in those years was in charge of receiving and sending Bistra mail. It is made up of three continuous, concentric circles of 30, 24, and 17 mm in diameter, respectively. Between the middle and the exterior circle there are dots positioned in the space. Between the middle and the interior circle there are pointed arches. The inscription in the center cannot be made out on copies I have seen.

The second type of cancellation is linear, reading "JOHANN RILKI," the name of the new person entrusted with receiving and sending Bistra's mail. This linear type (Figures 5, 8, and 10) is 40 mm long and 5.5 mm wide, and the letters are in cursive. It is found from 1909 to 1912 (the end of the Bistra posts), although in 1912 other types also were used.

The third type is an oval framed with two concentric ellipses, their sizes being 29 x 18 mm and 16 x 13 mm. Inside the oval at the top reads "S.K.V.," while the middle contains two small stars with the date between (day, month name abbreviated, and year with all four digits). The bottom of the cancellation shows the name of the locality, "MUHLBACH" (Sebes), apparently used at the SKV office in Sebes and not in Bistra. This cancel (Figure 6) appeared in 1912.

A fourth type also appeared in 1912, and is in fact a seal (Figure 7). Rectangular with beveled corners, it measures 16.3 x 15 mm and displays the monogram "J.W." I believe it was used occasionally by Weissortel, the treasurer of SKV. All of the above cancels are in violet.

Envelopes bearing Bistra stamps are extremely scarce, as the majority of the tourists sent postal cards or picture postcards.

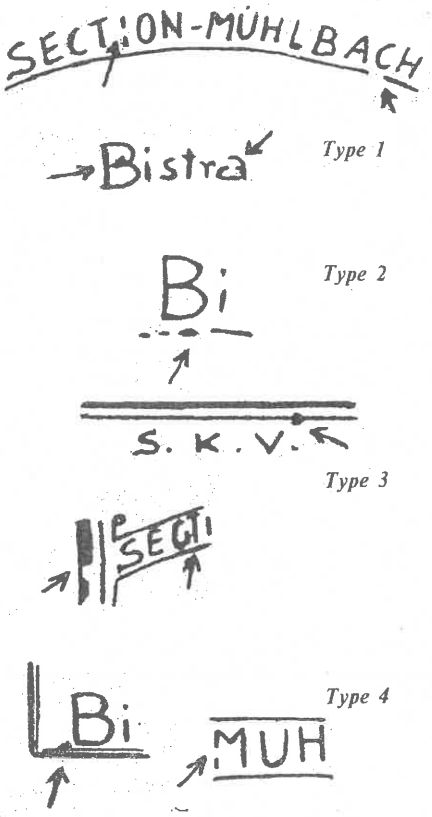


Figure 13.

In conclusion: Though the Bistra colonies operated from 1901 to 1914, mail service operated only from 1906 to 1914, and mail with Bistra stamps is known to us only from 1907 to 1912. However, it must be mentioned that E.J. Jaszai, in *Magyar Beljegek Katalogusa (Hungarian Stamp Catalogue)*, published in Vienna, Austria, in 1927, presented a proof of Bistra stamp usage in 1913. It is an item bearing a 5-filler Hungarian stamp, a 6-heller Bistra stamp, and the date cancel of Szaszsebes showing "July 26, 1913." This example also contradicts the theory of a confiscation allegedly taking place in 1912.

Research for this article was accomplished using the collection of Ludovic Dengel, a noted philatelic writer, researcher, and collector of Romanian stamps and postal history.

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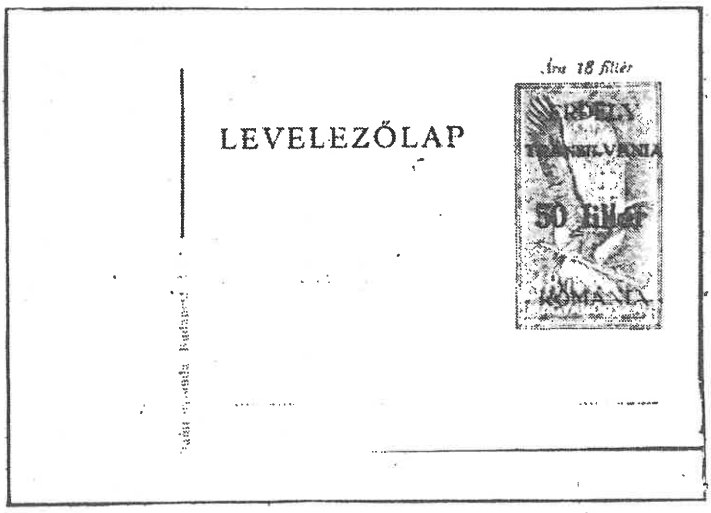
The ODORHEI 1944 Issue

GÁBOR RÁTAI, P.O. Box 7015, S-371 07 Karlsrona 7, Sweden.

During World War II, after Northern Transylvania was returned to Romania, in November 1944, the officials of several counties of this region held a meeting in Cluj. They raised the problem of a lack of both Hungarian and Romanian postage stamps. As a solution, they suggested that counties without sufficient stamp stocks prepare temporary issues. Accordingly, on Dec. 19, 1944, Ignatiu Szilagyi, prefect of Odorhei county, and Ştefan Benki, acting postmaster of Odorhei (Székelyudvarhely in Hungarian), gave Géza Sipos, a teacher of religion at the local Protestant High school (and a philatelist), written orders to gather in Hungarian stamps from local tobacco stores. These were to be overprinted for use as higher denominations.

What subsequently happened is described in great detail in two official documents. The first, written in Hungarian, is entitled "A Székelyudvarhelyi Béljegek Elkészitésének Története" (The History of the Preparation of the Odorhei Stamps). It was compiled and signed on Dec. 31, 1944, by Ştefan Benki and Géza Sipos. The second document comes in both Romanian and Hungarian language version and is entitled "Certificat Despre Timbrele Sursarjate la Odorhei" (Certificate Concerning the Stamps Overprinted in Odorhei). It was signed on July 30, 1945, by the same two persons. It bears impressions of the two rubber cancellers. ("1 P" and "2 P") as well as of the bilingual steel canceller used in conjunction with these stamps. From these sources, and through further research, as well as interviews with Géza Sipos and the late Ştefan Breuer, a Transylvanian official and philatelist, familiar with the making of several Northern Transylvanian Issues, the following sequence of events has been reconstructed:



Upper right corner of overprinted postal card

Géza Sipos, accompanied by Detective Orbán who was assigned to this task, visited the following tobacconists in Odorhei and collected Hungarian stamps and postal cards as shown below:

Tobacconist	*Address*	*Stamps*	*Postal Cards*	*Total Value*
Widow of Pál Kovács	Kossuth Street	572.40 Pengö	259.74 Pengö	832.14 Pengö
Sándor Hollósy	Orbán Balázs St.	77.60	72.00	149.60
Emma Szász Báncs	Kossuth Street	190.24	55.26	245.50
Orbán Brothers	Batthyány Square	60.40	25.20	85.60
Béla Varga	Bethlen Street	28.32	—	28.32
Ernö Balási	Kökereszt Square	45.04	54.00	99.04
Totals		974.00 Pengö	466.20 Pengö	1,440.20 Pengö

Impressions of the rubber cancellers

Original overprints

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Erdély
Transilvania
-, 50 P.
România

or "*1.-P.*" and "*2.-P.*," respectively.

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3	János Hunyadi	brown	604	710	-.50 P./ 4f	1,248	624
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5	Pál Kinizsi	vermilion	605	711	-.50 P./ 5f	10	5
6	King Ladislaus I	red orange	602	708	1.-P./ 2f	2	2
7	János Hunyadi	brown	604	710	1.-P./ 4f	900	900
8	Miklos Zrinyi	slate blue	606	712	1.-P./ 6f	98	98
9	András Hadik	brown	608	714	1.-P./10f	278	278
10	Crown of St. Stephen	olive brown	583	677	1.-P./10f	2	2
11	Patroness of Hungary	dark grey	610	716	1.-P./18f	1,740	1,740
12	Crown of St. Stephen	chestnut brown	611	717	1.-P./20f	160	160
13	St. Margaret	deep carmine	620	755	1.-P./30f	800	800
14	Kossuth with family	yellow brown	621	747	2.-P./ 4f	40	80
15	St. Margaret	deep carmine	620	755	2.-P./30f	400	400
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Top of favor cancelled military postal card

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

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EDITOR: George Pataki, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432

Odorhei Kiadó

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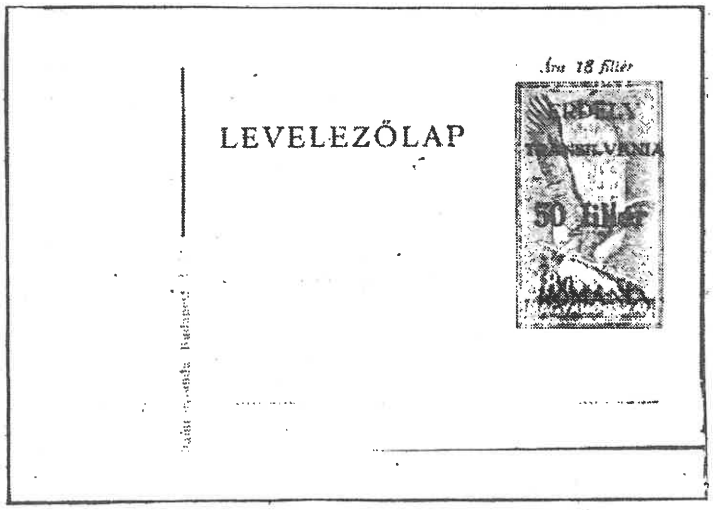
The ODORHEI 1944 Issue

GÁBOR RÁTAI, P.O. Box 7015, S-371 07 Karlsrona 7, Sweden.

During World War II, after Northern Transylvania was returned to Romania, in November 1944, the officials of several counties of this region held a meeting in Cluj. They raised the problem of a lack of both Hungarian and Romanian postage stamps. As a solution, they suggested that counties without sufficient stamp stocks prepare temporary issues. Accordingly, on Dec. 19, 1944, Ignatiu Szilagyi, prefect of Odorhei county, and Ştefan Benki, acting postmaster of Odorhei (Székelyudvarhely in Hungarian), gave Géza Sipos, a teacher of religion at the local Protestant High school (and a philatelist), written orders to gather in Hungarian stamps from local tobacco stores. These were to be overprinted for use as higher denominations.

What subsequently happened is described in great detail in two official documents. The first, written in Hungarian, is entitled "A Székelyudvarhelyi Béljegek Elkészitésének Története" (The History of the Preparation of the Odorhei Stamps). It was compiled and signed on Dec. 31, 1944, by Ştefan Benki and Géza Sipos. The second document comes in both Romanian and Hungarian language version and is entitled "Certificat Despre Timbrele Sursarjate la Odorhei" (Certificate Concerning the Stamps Overprinted in Odorhei). It was signed on July 30, 1945, by the same two persons. It bears impressions of the two rubber cancellers. ("1 P" and "2 P") as well as of the bilingual steel canceller used in conjunction with these stamps. From these sources, and through further research, as well as interviews with Géza Sipos and the late Ştefan Breuer, a Transylvanian official and philatelist, familiar with the making of several Northern Transylvanian Issues, the following sequence of events has been reconstructed:



Upper right corner of overprinted postal card

Géza Sipos, accompanied by Detective Orbán who was assigned to this task, visited the following tobacconists in Odorhei and collected Hungarian stamps and postal cards as shown below:

Tobacconist	*Address*	*Stamps*	*Postal Cards*	*Total Value*
Widow of Pál Kovács	Kossuth Street	572.40 Pengö	259.74 Pengö	832.14 Pengö
Sándor Hollósy	Orbán Balázs St.	77.60	72.00	149.60
Emma Szász Báncs	Kossuth Street	190.24	55.26	245.50
Orbán Brothers	Batthyány Square	60.40	25.20	85.60
Béla Varga	Bethlen Street	28.32	—	28.32
Ernö Balási	Kökereszt Square	45.04	54.00	99.04
Totals		974.00 Pengö	466.20 Pengö	1,440.20 Pengö

Impressions of the rubber cancellers

Original overprints

A total of 7,358 stamps, and 2,590 of the 18 filler postal cards were collected, with a total face value of 1,440.-20 Pengö. The officials issued receipts to the tobacconists, copies of which were kept by Géza Sipos. Both Sipos and Detective Orbán signed a statement listing the collected material and it was given to the police. The stamps and postal cards were taken to the Minerva printing shop where the overprinting was done in the presence of Géza Sipos and Detective Orbán.

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7	János Hunyadi	brown	604	710	1.-P./ 4f	900	900
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10	Crown of St. Stephen	olive brown	583	677	1.-P./10f	2	2
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						6,953	6,500

Top of favor cancelled military postal card

Counterfeit overprint-genuine cancellation

Counterfeit overprint

Counterfeit overprint

Counterfeit overprint-genuine cancellation

The total value of the 18 different overprinted stamps is 6,500 Pengö and the value of the 2,586 overprinted postal cards (50 fillér each) totals 1,290 Pengö, making the grand total 7,790 Pengö.

20 of the 1.-P/18f "Patroness of Hungary" stamps received inverted overprints, not double overprints, as some catalogues (Zumstein) mistakenly list. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 erroneously list the "-.50 P" (50 fillér) as "50 P.", illustrates the overprint in the wrong place (with the Tîrgu-Mures issue) and wrongly with a comma instead of a period and with a lower case "p" instead of a capital "P".

Shifted overprints, horizontally and/or vertically, are known.

After overprinting, most of the stamps and cards were distributed to the six tobacco shops, from which they had been collected in the first place, as well as to the Odorhei post office. Each tobacconist received overprinted stamps and postal cards with face values exactly or almost exactly equal to those they had supplied for overprinting, as follows:

Tobacconist	Stamps	Postal Cards	Total Value
Widow of Pál Kovács	572.00 Pengö	260.00 Pengö	832.00 Pengö
Sándor Hollósy	77.50	72.00	149.50
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		Grand Total:	1,439.50 Pengö

Impression of the steel canceller

The 70 fillér difference between the collected 1,440.20 Pengö and the returned 1,439.50 Pengö was given in the form of unoverprinted stamps.

As the total face value of the stamps and cards after overprinting was 7,790 Pengö (6,500 P. and 1,290 P.) while that of the stock returned to the tobacco shops was 1,439.50 Pengö, a profit of 6,530.50 Pengö resulted. For his work, Géza Sipos asked for a commission of approximately 3.3% of the profits and he received 214.50 Pengö in overprinted stamps. The printing cost of 160 Pengö and the 75 Pengö expense for re-engraving of the steel canceller were also paid in the form of overprinted stamps. Furthermore, the following persons each received gratis one set of overprinted stamps:

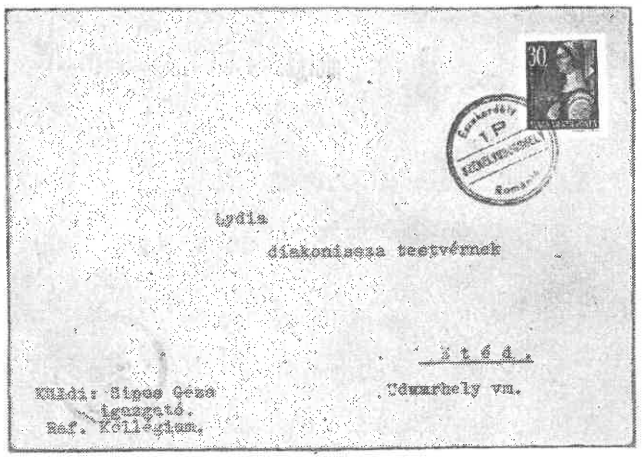
Ignațiu Szilágyi, prefect
Ferenc Dobos, mayor,
Mihály Sámuel, president of MADOSZ (a political organization),
Deputy Chief of police
Manager of Minerva printing shop,
Detective Orbán.

The total value of these gifts was 116.50 Pengö, however, the prefect reimbursed the posts for the stamps he received (15.50 Pengö) reducing the value of the gifts to 101 Pengö. With the total expenses and gifts (550.50 Pengö) reducing the post's initial profit, the net profit became 5,800 Pengö.

While the first of the above mentioned certificates states that these stamps were issued on Dec. 23, 1944, the second (signed by the same people as the first) gives the issue date as Dec. 30, 1944. They were used in Odorhei County and in Northern Transylvania until the end of May, 1945, when supplies ran out.

Obliteration was carried out using an engraved bilingual (Hungarian and Romanian) date canceller, 27.5 mm. in diameter reading "SZEKELYUDVARHELY ODORHEI", with date on the center bridge. The canceller was made by re-engraving an old Hungarian canceller used in Homorodfürdö. It was first used on the evening of Dec. 30, 1944.

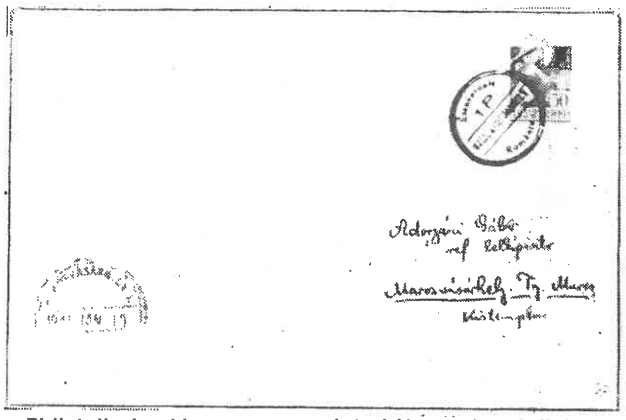
Before the overprinting took place, the Odorhei post office had been using a unique franking system. The sender had to affix stamps totalling 30 filler; at the post office window, these stamps were then obliterated with "1 P" or "2 P" rubber cancellations, the



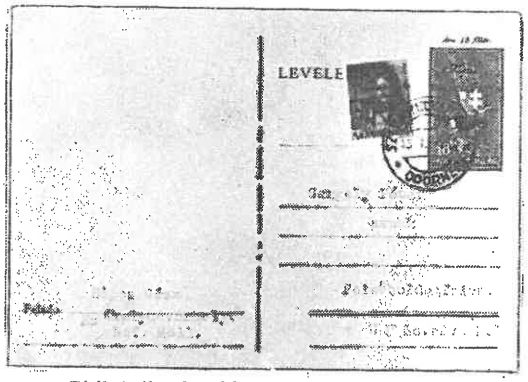
Philatelic franking: unoverprinted Hungarian definitive

Philatelic franking: Romanian and Hungarian definitives, incorrect rate

Philatelic franking: Romanian definitive and Hungarian overprinted stamp



Philatelic franking: unoverprinted Hungarian definitive



Philatelic franking: overprinted stamp on overprinted postal card

difference between 30 fillér and the required postal rate being paid in cash. The double-circle rubber cancellers, 28.5 & 27 mm. in diameter, read "Eszakerdély" on the top, "România" on the bottom, "SZÉKELYUDVARHELY" on the center bridge and "1 P" or "2 P" above the bridge. During the period of postal use of these cancellers, the ink used was greyish green blue. Black ink was used later for favor cancellations. These rubber cancellers were genuinely used for only 3 to 4 weeks. The Sighişoara post office refused to forward letters marked with these cancellers because they did not contain dates.

The Odorhei post office also accepted Romanian stamps with the portrait of King Michael, despite the fact that they did not have them in stock. The rate of exchange was calcululated at 1 Pengö per 10 Lei. However, at least 90% of this type of franking are philatelic fabrications.

The postal rates were: 50 fillér for postcards, 1 Pengö for ordinary letters and 2 Pengö for registered.

Letters mailed outside Odorhei county are scarce as the censors and postal officials of Sighisoara only rarely let through mail franked with this provisional issue. Most covers with Odorhei stamps were produced bystamp collectors and many are favor cancelled, rather than postally used. Many were prepared by Géza Sipos, as can be seen by the return address. He took advantage of his position, being in charge of this issue and being paid with overprinted stamps.

Romanian postal cards with imprinted stamps depicted King Michael, are know favor cancelled by the "1 P" rubber canceller. Covers and postal cards franked with various combinations of Romanian and/or unoverprinted Hungarian definitives, as well as with overprinted Odorhei stamps which do not conform to any of the then prevailing postal rates are also known. The were favor cancelled and often have wrong dates. For example, a postcard prepared by Géza Sipos was franked with Romanian and Hungarian stamps, even with a 2 Lei fiscal stamp, all obliterated with the "1 P" rubber canceller. However, the date cancel shows that the card was allegedly mailed on Jan. 8, 1945 (45 I.8) when the overprinted stamps and the steel canceller were in use. Another cover, with Géza Sipos' handwriting, allegedly mailed registered from Odorhei to Odorhei (which already should be suspicious) has besides the required 2.-P./30 f stamps, an unnecessary 16 Lei Romanian definitive, to create a mixed franking. Another cover, withe the same handwriting, bearing a 30 filler unoverprinted Hungarian definitive, obliterated with the "1 P" canceller, was allegedly mailed from Odorhei to Tîrgu Mureş. The date on the arrival marking shows "Jan. 10, 1945" when the overprinted stamps were already in use.

The overprints have been counterfeited several times. Most counterfeits are badly made, with typefaces differing from those of the original, thus easily recognizable. Two types, however, are better, having been made using some of the same printer's type from which the originals were produced. Only the letter "P" in "Pengö" differs on all but one of the counterfeits from that on the originals. The originals, however, differ from all known counterfeits in that originals were made with shiny, tar-black ink, and the impression can be clearly seen on back of mint stamps, just as on the Tîrgu Mureş issue. Stamps having counterfeit overprint, but cancelled with the original canceller, are known, as are covers bearing such stamps.

Anybody have further information on the Odorhei issue, and/or who is willing to trade items of the Northern Transylvania issues, is invited to write me directly.

TO OUR ROMANIAN READERS

Bulletin No. 2/1983 contained "The Iron Guard Issues" and "The Romanian Transnistria Issue". Both articles describe "prohibited" issues, giving their historical background. Therefore, we did not send this edition to Romania as it would not have passed the censor. Several previous bulletins, including some with no controversial subjects, have not reached Romanian destinations. In certain cases, copies of an issue were retained by those who decide what should, and what should not be read by the Romanian philatelist, while other copies of the very same issue were passed.

We can not see any logical pattern concerning what is or is not permitted to enter Romania. Therefore, in the future, instead of risking loss of the more than 200 copies we now send free of charge to Romanian philatelists, we will send only a few samples. If and when these are confirmed as having been received by their addressees, we will send the rest.

Our apologies for this inconvenience, although the solution to this problem does not depend on us. We will be pleased to continue sending our publication to anybody interested in it in Romania, but no censor will be allowed to influence its contents.

1944-45
TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Sălajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

ARS PHILATELICA
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P.O. BOX 1765
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20902, U.S.A.

R. Phil. Stud., 1983, VII, nr. 1.

Postal Forgery of Romania, Scott #326

George Pataki

Most of the faked stamps are philatelic forgeries made with the intent to swindle the stamp collector. Sometimes however, forgers print stamps to be used for postage, thus defrauding the postal administration and, consequently the government. These stamps are usually sold at below their face value to large users or, in complicity with dishonest postal employees or people connected with stores authorized to sell postal effects, they are sold directly to the public who then use them for postage, and thus, unknowingly and unwittingly contribute to the defrauding of their government.

Such postal forgeries are usually definitive stamps because these are used in larger quantities and for a longer period of time than the commemoratives. Because the postal forgeries, in even a large scale operation, are usually printed in much smaller numbers than the legitimately printed stamps, they are scarce and highly prized by specialists, especially if they were postally used.

Such a postal forgery is Scott #326 (Michel 326, Yvert #341), 5 lei red brown with the portrait of young King Michael. The original was printed on white, smooth, unwatermarked paper, by the photogravure method. The entire set to which this stamp belongs was designed by Ludovic Basarab and it was printed at the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory) in Bucharest. Out of the entire set, only this stamp was printed with ink which is both soluble in water and sensitive to light. Thus, when this stamp is soaked in water, it loses color. If this stamp is exposed to light, its color will fade. The size of the original stamp, from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, is about 22.5 by 28 mm., with variations due to imperfections in the perforating process. The size of the design is 18.5 by 24.5 mm. The perforation of the original, and this is important, is 13½ to 13¾.

Original

Forgery

The postal forgery was printed on yellowish or greyish, thick, porous paper. The size matches that of the original. The illustration on the forgery is a little less sharp than the one on the original. It seems that it was made by the photolithography process. The color, a close match with the original but slightly lighter, especially the background around the head, is stable and insoluble in water. The perforation of the forgery is around 11½ with wide variations.

The stamp I examined had different perforation on all four sides, varying from 11 to 11¾ so the easiest way to spot a forgery is by its perforation.

This forgery was first reported by Emanuel Leipnik, vice-president of the Philatelic Club of Timisoara, in "Filatelia Pentru Toti" of Feb. 1934, in an article published both in Romanian and German languages, who found forged stamps on covers in the summer of 1929. Initially, he assumed that it was a variety of the official printing but when this was denied by the postal administration he reported it to the authorities as forgery.

The forgery illustrated here was cancelled in August 1928, thus the forgery was made only a short few months after the offical ones, which were issued on March 16, 1928. The locality where this stamp was cancelled can not be established because only the second part of the two-part name (". . . -NOU"), can be seen on it.

Leipnik suspected that the forgery was made somewhere in Northern Transylvania because most of the mail bearing these fake stamps originated from Bihor, Satu-Mare and Maramures counties. Later, George Craiu, another researcher, stated that this forgery was made in the province of Banat.

According to the 1982 Scott, the catalogue price of this Scott #326 is 3¢ used. The forgery would cost at least 200 times that amount. Therefore, this is one of the instances when the forgery costs much more than the original, which is the case with most of the postal forgeries.

Collectors who possess large quantities of the 5 lei King Michel stamp should check them for a perforation difference as perhaps among the many common and cheap originals they may find this desirable postal forgery.

Supplement to the SIGHET 1944 Issue

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

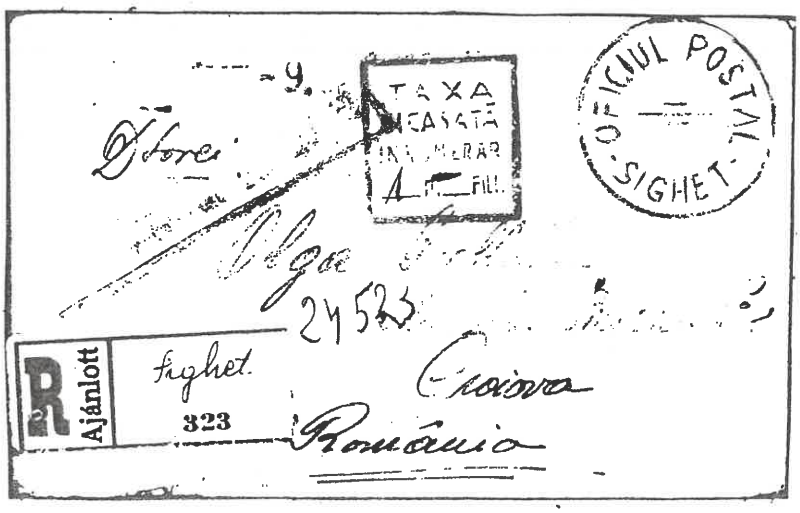
F. Konrad's "Local Issues of Northern Transylvania" *(Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1982)* mentioned application by the Sighet post office of a handstamp on covers in cases when the postage was paid in cash instead by affixing stamps. The marking was not illustrated. Recently I found *(in the collection of Prof. Dr. Petre Cojerean of Timisoara, Romania)* a registered cover bearing this rare marking. The text, in a rectangular frame, 23 by 24 mm., reads: "TAXA INCASATA IN NUMERAR___ P.___FIL!." *(Tax paid in cash___ P.___FIL!.)*; in this instance, a handwritten "1" appears before the letter "P", attesting that 1 Pengo was received.

The upper right corner shows a dateless, single circle marking, 30 mm. in diameter, reading "OFICIUL POSTAL SIGHET" *(Sighet post office)*.

The cover itself is small, 116 by 72 mm., and was mailed registered from Sighet to Craiova. Affixed on the lower left corner is the Hungarian registration label, reading "R Ajanlott 323" with a manuscript "Sighet" spelled in accord with its Romanian orthography. The "12 Cenzurat Turda 12" censor marking indicates that it went through Turda where it was censored.

No dated cancel can be found on the cover, except for "9" which can be seen at the top. This may possibly have been the last digit of a linear date stamp. However, it can be assumed that it was used in 1945 and handled by a Romanian postal clerk who affixed the existing Hungarian registration label but wrote the city's name in Romanian.

Because of the unusual handling it received, this cover, althouth stampless, is a valuable postal history item.



Z-306.81.01.

Z-306.81.02.

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An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

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Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Foreign Censor Markings Used in Banat, 1914-1919

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

At the beginning of World War I, the province of Banat, being under Austro-Hungarian administration, had all its administrative and military services organized by Habsburg monarchy. All regulations governing the posts and censorship of the Austro-Hungarian Empire also applied in Banat.

Out of the large number of censor markings used during that period, I have chosen to discuss only those which could be pinpointed as being used in Banat. Thus, only those displaying in the marking's text the name of a locality in Banat, where they were used, are included below. They usually were applied in red, sometimes in violet. Two types of markings were used: linear and circular. The linear markings have several subtypes:

—With "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE" *(Letter Censoring Office)* on the first line and the name of the locality on the second line.

—With "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSUR" *(Letter Censorship)* on the first line and the name of the locality on the second line.

—With other texts.

The larger cities such as Timisoara, and the industrial centers such as Resita *(Montana)* and Anina, had letter censoring offices *(Briefenzensurstelle)*. The smaller localities, such as Orșova, Caransebeș and Lugoj used "Briefenzensur" type markings.

The Habsburg Empire's duality is evidenced in the text of these markings, the first line being in German language while the second line, with the name of the locality, is in Hungarian.

Austrian type censor markings were also used in Timisoara and Banat. One of them reads: "Militäranwalt des k.u.k. Militärkommandante'/in Temesvár". Another one, in a rectangular frame reads: "Zensurbehorde MKT/Zensuriert - am 1914/kann weiter gehen.", this has the name of the locality removed but is known to have been used in Timisoara.

Following World War I, during the unsettled period of November 1918 to August 1919, Banat was under temporary Serbian occupation. The Serbian censor markings are circular and feature Cyrillic lettering. One of them reads: "CENZURIRANO U TEMISVARU" *(Censored in Timisoara)*. Another one, 34 mm. in diameter, applied in violet, found on a cover franked with Hungarian stamps and mailed in Sinicolaul Mare, on December 27, 1918, reads: "CENZURIRANO U VEL SENT MIKLUSU BR. 906".

While I could not find other Serbian censor markings used in Romanian Banat, I present a marking used in the Serbian Banat to point out an important difference. Used in Panchevo, it was found on covers mailed on January 1, 1919 and March 6, 1919, and reads "Kraevska Srbska Pancevo Voina Cenzura" *(Serbian Kingdom Panchevo Military Censorship)*. Its diameter measures 37 mm. and it was applied in black. The Serbian markings used temporarily in Romanian Banat differ in that the words "Kraevska Srbska" *(Serbian Kingdom)* are missing.

In the city of Arad, just north of the province of Banat, during the temporary occupation by the French army, a circular censor marking was used that reads: "CENSURE FRANCAISE ARAD" *(French Censorship Arad)*.

After the Romanian administration was established in Banat, only Romanian censor markings were used. Those interested in this subject, should look up "Censor Markings Used in Timisoara", R.P.S. No. 1 of 1982.

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE TEMESVÁR

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE RESICZABÁNYA

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE ANINA

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR ORSOVA

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR KARÁNSEBES

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR LUGOS

Militäranwalt des k. u. k. Militärkommandante' in Temesvár.

Zensurbehörde MKT
Zensuriert — am. 1914
kann weiter gehen.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

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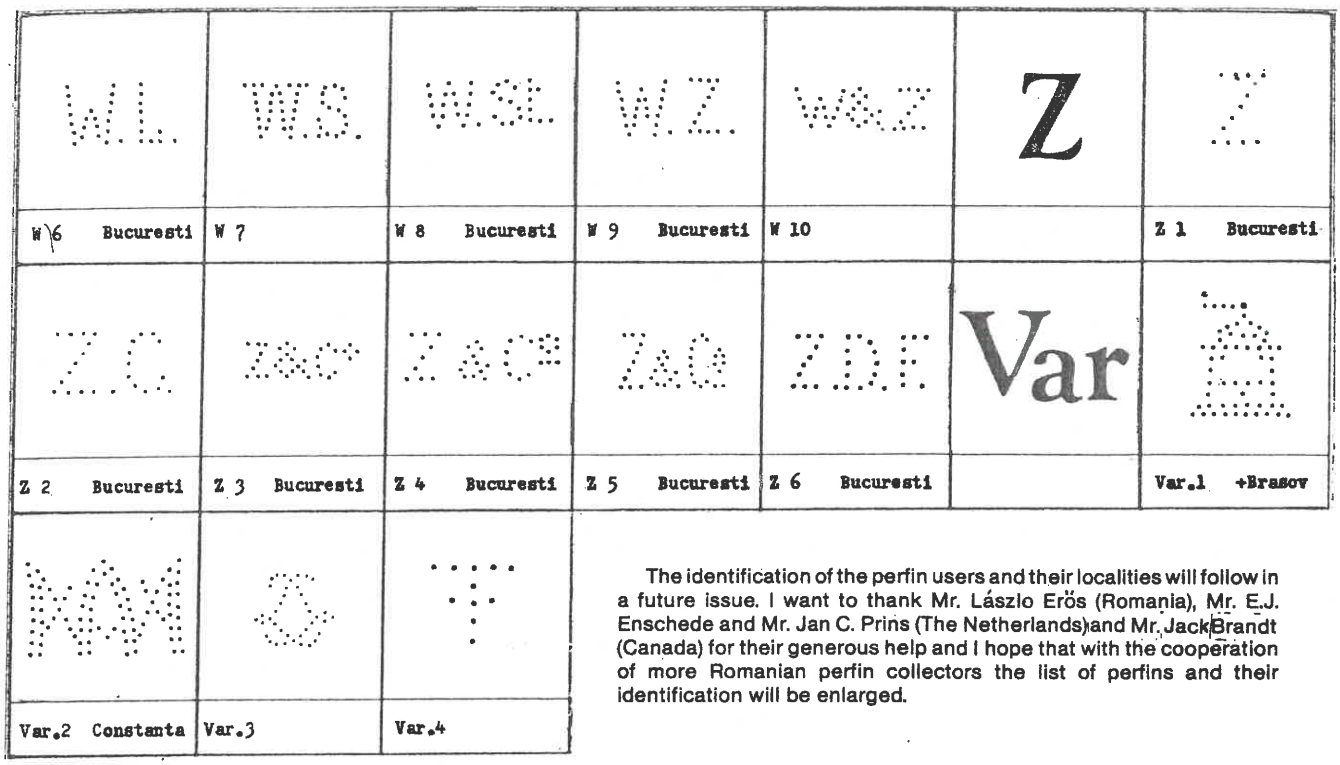
R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1982, VI. nr. 3.

ROMANIAN PERFINS

VOJTECH MAXA

P.O. BOX 50, 170 00 Prague, Czechoslovakia



The identification of the perfin users and their localities will follow in a future issue. I want to thank Mr. László Erős (Romania), Mr. E.J. Enschede and Mr. Jan C. Prins (The Netherlands) and Mr. Jack Brandt (Canada) for their generous help and I hope that with the cooperation of more Romanian perfin collectors the list of perfins and their identification will be enlarged.

More on the Sighet 1944 Issue.

George Pataki

Francis Konrad's excellent study, "Local Issues of Northern Transylvania, 1944-1945" (The American Philatelist, November 1981 and Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1982), presented the many issues created at the end of World War II, when Northern Transylvania was reunited with Romania and the various local posts were reorganizing.

The second issue described in the above article is the Sighet (in Maramureş region) issue. Because of existing controversy as to whether this issue comprised 7 or 10 stamps, I am here translating the official report made and signed on the day when the issue was made (by overprinting various Hungarian stamps), as published in "Filatelia" of Sept. 1, 1946:

"Official Report No. 46

This day of December 29, 1944: Considering the complete absence of Romanian postage stamps and ever growing requests for the same from the public, the undersigned Călin Teodor, postmaster delegate of the Sighet post office, assisted by Mr. Hingreder Iosif-post office clerk, Miss Kovaci Ghizela- office cashier, Floreta Alexandru-supervisor and Călin Vasile-mailman, have proceeded to overprint the Hungarian postage stamps left in this office by the former Hungarian administration, as follows:

1.	8 f dark green	amount	150
2.	10 f light brown	"	250
3.	12 f bright green	"	250
4.	18 f black	"	100
5.	20 f reddish brown	"	100
6.	30 f red (St. Marg.)	"	230
7.	1 P green (Crown)	"	250

These stamps were overprinted using a special wooden device, made by Mr. Medvecsky Ştefan (townhall clerk), its text reads "POSTA ROMANA" in capital letters, in a circle, the center of which is engraved with the year 1944.

Right after the overprinting, these stamps, except for 20 Red Cross, were delivered to the cashier and the window for franking domestic registered mail as well as registered mail addressed to the territories occupied by the Romanian and Soviet armies; ordinary mail continued to have its payment indicated by the handstamp "Taxa incasata in numerar" (translation: Postage received in cash), made by us out of wood.

The handstamp used to make this overprint has also been applied on this official report, afterwards it was destroyed by burning it.

Dated as above.

Postmaster delegate
Călin Teodor

Assistants
1) Kovacs Ghizela
2) Hingreder Iosif
3) Floreta Alexandru
4) Călin Vasile

P.S. Also overprinted were 10 each of stamps issued for the Red Cross Society of Hungary 30+30 f and 50+50 f, which were not sold at the window and are considered proofs."

This official document indeed bears the above mentioned "POSTA ROMANA 1944" marking as well as the official circular postmark "OFFICIUL P.T.T. SIGHET".

As it can be seen, only seven stamps were officially overprinted and issued, and only 100 complete sets could possibly be assembled because only 100 of the 18 f denomination were overprinted.

The facts as recorded in this official document are supported by personal inter-

views later conducted by Breuer Stefan (a philatelist and government employee) with Călin Teodor and the assistants persent at overprinting. Breuer found out that a set of seven overprinted stamps had been sent to the Postal Directorate in Oradea to be forwarded to the editors of Zumstein (a Swiss published stamp catalogue), who regarded them as official proof of the authenticity of this issue and listed them. Breuer succeeded in obtaining from Calin Teodor a number of overprinted stamps, amongst these the only existing block of 4 of the 18 f stamp (the rest being known only as singles), certified by Călin as genuine.

The overprinting was accomplished with black ink, used at the time by the Sighet post office.

The 1947 edition of the Konrád catalogue lists seven stamps for this issue. In 1959, both Zumstein and the Romanian catalogue (edited by F. Konrád and M. Herscovici) list 10 stamps for this issue, adding to the originally known seven stamps three more: 1 f, 4 f and 50 f.

Around 1956, F. Konrád was introduced to Jacques Wertheimer-Ghica of Bucharest who had some 1 f, 4 f and 50 f overprinted stamps for sale. Konrád examined them carefully and found-to his amazement - that the overprints had been produced by the original wooden device, showing the characteristic break in the first leg of the letter "M" in "ROMANA". Wertheimer-Ghica was already known as a forger, as he was selling covers with the 6 parale, 1862 United Principalities stamps which are known to have never been issued. Nevertheless, the fact that these three new denomination seemed to have been made with the original handstamp prompted their listing in the Konrad-Herscòvici catalogue as well as in others.

Konrád suspected that these three stamps, not listed in Official Report No. 46 of Dec. 29, 1944, were made before overprinting the other seven values because according to the report, the wooden device was destroyed right after the overprinting was completed.

Other stamps, not mentioned in the official report, have surfaced over the years, such as the 70+70 f Red Cross. Also, obviously forged overprints, without the characteristic break in the first leg of the letter "M" are known to exist.

If we accept the Official Report of Dec. 26, 1944, made on the day of the overprinting, we have to limit the Sighet issue to only seven stamps, meanwhile acknowledging that three other values, unofficially made with the original device, also exist.

There is also a second rationale to support this assumption. While some of the stamps were overprinted in black ink, used at the time by the Sighet post office, others have oily, greenish-black overprints. Why on such a small number of overprinted stamps should there be two kind of overprinting inks? Could it be because they were overprinted on two different occasions, using the two different types of ink? One of them, with the commission in session and the other (before or after the official overprinting) an unofficial one, when the three types (plus a semipostal) not listed in the official document were also created? As seen in the Jay T. Carrigan collection, stamps with black overprint are only those listed in the official document while those with the oily, greenish-black overprints are from the official ist as well as the unlisted ones. Our conclusion is that the stamps with the oily, greenish-black overprints, while having been made with the original wooden device, were unofficialy produced.

The illustrations were made and supplied by Jay T. Carrigan, the stamps were expertized by Francis Konrád.

Stamps listed in the official document.

Stamps not listed in the official document.

REVIEW: **MINKUS CATALOGUE: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania.**

This three country catalogue, with 242 pages, is available at $9.95 from Minkus Publishing Co., 116 West 32nd St., New York, N.Y. 10001 or any stamp store. The Romanian section consists of 83 pages, with the latest issue listed that of May 4,1981. Romanian specialists should find the "Hungary-Occupations" chapter useful as it contains the "Arad", "Debrecen" (Debreţin) and "Temesvar" (Timişoara) issue in the same volume as all other Romanian issues.

This catalogue is well printed and nicely illustrated. Editor-in-Chief Joe Zollman assured us that the few minor omissions and inaccuracies we have reported to him will be corrected in the next issue.

The catalogue prices the controversial imperforate souvenir sheets (not priced by Scott) but does not list or price the imperforate varieties of some of the stamps issued during the reign of King Carol II (listed and priced in Michel).

The Minkus prices are generally higher than those listed in Scott.

R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1982, VI, nr. 2.

The 1944 Tirgu Mureș Issue

by Peter Néma

Zollstrasse 56, CH-8212
Neuhausen am Rheinfall, Switzerland

During World War II, in October 1944, Romanian postal personnel entered the city of Tirgu Mureș (Marosvásárhely in Hungarian) in Transylvania, bringing Romanian stamps with them, but were ordered back a few days later (F. Konrád, "Romania, Catalog Filatelic," Oradea, 1946 and 1947). A part of the stock of these stamps left behind was overprinted in November 1944 by the local authorities using black capital letters in both languages (Hungarian and Romanian):

Erdély
Transilvania

Eight stamps were overprinted viz., six regular stamps (Scott ##537, 538, 543, 546, 550 and 551) and two postal tax stamps (Scott ## RA 26-27), both types bearing the portrait of King Michael. The paper is white and the watermark is of the type presented in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974:

1 Leu violet, 2 Lei orange, 5 Lei rosa carmine, 10 Lei magenta, 16 Lei dark blue, 20 Lei brown, 1 Leu lilac rosa, and 2 Lei brown.

The R.P.S.C. of 1974 lists these stamps on page 511 (PTM 1-8), but illustrates them with the wrong overprint (presenting the one applied in Odorhei on Hungarian stamps) and gives several other erroneous points of information.

The earliest use of these stamps known to me is November 20, 1944; even the illustrated item (Fig. 1) was cancelled on request. Besides the above listed eight stamps there are, allegedly, two more (50 Bani and 50 Lei) with the same overprint and some stamps with the overprinted word TRANSILVANIA on the first line and ERDÉLY on the second line.

Published data on the Tirgu Mures issue is very limited and somewhat contradictory. According to F. Konrád, 450 sets were overprinted. G. Sipos in "Eszak-erdelyi belyegek" (published in Filateliai Szemle, Budapest, 1976/X, p. 17) claims that more stamps, e.g. of the 2 Lei denomination were made. F. Konrád states, that first 200 sets were overprinted in a manner such that the overprint (the word ERDÉLY) covered King Michael's head, but after six days of use another 250 sets were overprinted leaving the monarch's head clear. The alleged reason is that the Romanian postal service operating in Southern Transylvania, refused to handle items franked with stamps having the king's portrait disfigured. The cover illustrated on Fig. 2 does not support the above allegation; it was posted on November 23, 1944, in MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREŞ 1 (transit through SIGHIŞOARA on November 25, 1944 and through ODORHEI on November 28, 1944) and soon after should

have arrived at its destination: Forțeni. The king's head on these stamps is covered by the overprint; nevertheless, Sighișoara did not refuse it.

Several overprint errors are known. Supposedly because of a limited supply of capital A-s, some stamps have overprints with two or three smaller A-s than the rest of the letters (Fig. 3) in the word TRANSILVANIA, but there are some real printing errors, too. According to F. Konrád and G. Sipos, the following variations in the overprint are known:

TRANSILAANIA (A instead of V) positions 25 and 75; TSANSILVANIA (S instead of R) position 35; TRANSILYANIA (Y instead of V) position 42; TRANSILVANIA (last two A-s small) positions 4, 5, 39, 59, 69, 79 and 89; and TRANSILVANIA (all three A-s small) positions 60, 70, 80 and 90.

I have found one more error: TRANSILVNNIA (N instead of the second A, Fig. 4). Its place might be one or more of the positions 1, 10, 20, 22, 23, 29, 30, 40, 83-86 and 91-96 about which there is no information up to now, as there is no knowledge of a complete sheet of any stamp of the Tirgu Mureș issue and, because of the small number of the overprinted sets, it is doubtful if one exists. I only have information on fragments of sheets; to reconstruct the overprints on an entire sheet, it would be necessary to examine several blocks, strips and marginal copies and to make further investigations.

The overprints of the Tirgu Mureș stamps were counterfeited several times. Some of the overprints have been so badly done that it is easy to recognize them. On the other hand, there are some copies which look very good. For example the fragments presented in Fig. 5 are so good that the only clue to their counterfeited status is that blocks of 20 without any erroneous overprint do not fit into the sheet of 100 mentioned by F. Konrád and G. Sipos. However, before definitely classifying these items as counterfeits, it is necessary to clarify whether all sheets of the printings contain the erroneous overprints or not.

Some of the excellent counterfeits, allegedly made with the original typeset, can be recognized because the stamps used by the counterfeiters for the overprinting have different color shades, perforations and adhesive structures to those which can be found on postally used items (and therefore are supposedly the originals).

To establish whether a given stamp is genuine, using the Szalay method ("Bogenplatz-Feststellung," Donaupost, Bratislava, 1927/XII, pp. 141-145), also requires an original or reconstructed full sheet of stamps. This might be very difficult because the number of stamps overprinted is small and the overprint consists only of 18 letters, most of them intact, without any characteristic breaks or distortions.

There are questions regarding the use of this issue. Apart from the cover presented in

figure 7

figure 6

figure 8

Fig. 2, I have seen only five other covers, all registered and for local use, bearing the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREȘ 1" cancel mark. Three of them have the whole set of stamps and two franked with the supposedly correct 38 Lei stamps. There is no contradiction between the registration numbers and the dates of cancelmarks (Nov. 22 and 23). Furthermore, one of the letters also has a registration receipt. I have not yet been able to establish up to when these overprinted stamps were used, but I know that on Dec. 13, 1944 and later (Jan. 27, 1945, Fig. 6) the Tirgu Mureș 1 post office already used stamps with the portrait of King Michael without overprint. The latest use of the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREȘ 1" postal marking known to me is April 24, 1945. Other known similar bilingual postal markings in the Tirgu Mureș region and their dates of use are:

TEKE/TEACA July 24, 1945; SZOVÁTA/SOVATA June 1, 1945 (Fig. 7) and Aug. 27, 1945; NYÁRÁDSZEREDA/M. NIRAJULUI July 23, 1945 and Sept. 6, 1945.

Finally, one more question still awaits an answer. The post card shown in Fig. 8, mailed from Szekelyudvarhely, bears a "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TARGU MUREȘ 1" arrival postal mark dated Jan. 10, 1945. I have also seen an identical marking on a cover with the same date, also mailed from Székelyudvarhely. This would indicate that in 1945, in Tirgu Mureș, two different types of postal markings were in use, one with Romanian name of the city abbreviated "TG.-MUREȘ" for cancelling the letters at departure and another, spelled "TARGU-MUREȘ" as arrival cancelmark. Unfortunately, two other letters sent to Tirgu Mureș do not support this presumption. One of them was sent from Baia Mare (NAGYBÁNYA), went through CLUJ on March 14, 1945 and arrived at Tirgu Mureș on March 18, 1945. The other was mailed from Oradea 3 (NAGYVÁRAD 3) on March 10, 1945, went through CLUJ and arrived at Tirgu Mures but the arrival date was not struck. Both of these covers bear the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREȘ 1" marking in the abbreviated form as an arrival postmark. Therefore, there was no special arrival postmark in Tirgu Mureș during the whole period of the local post service, but it is possible that one was used for a short time in January, 1945. On the other hand, it is also imaginable that the post card in Fig. 8 is a bogus.

The 1944-45 postal history of the city and region of Tirgu Mureș requires more data to complete the picture. I would appreciate any information regarding this issue and I am interested in all kinds of related philatelic material.

R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1982, VI, nr. 2.

Local Issues of Northern Transylvania 1944-1945

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, November 1981

by Francis Konrád

In the philatelic context, Transylvania (in Romanian, Transilvania; in Hungarian, Erdély, with an acute accent on the second "é") is known as the territory ceded by Hungary to Romania in 1919. The area coincides roughly with the once independent historical Principality of Transsylvania (A.D. 1526-1690).

In September 1940, Adolf Hitler's "Vienna Dictate" forced Romania to cede its northern half back to Hungary (see Figure 1). After August 23, 1944, when Romania turned away from Nazi Germany, the Soviet and the Romanian armies began to drive out the Germans and Hungarians. Hungarian rule thus ended there in practice in October 1944, and ended legally by virtue of an armistice January 20, 1945, but the Romanians were not to take over administration before April 9, 1945. In the interval, lasting almost half a year, non-military activities such as postal service were left to be resumed and run by local people. This situation gave birth to the little-known local postal stamp issues that form the object of this study.

N.B.: Geographical names are listed in Romanian, and the Hungarian version is given in parentheses. The stamps are listed chronologically as they were issued.

1. The Târgu-Mureş (Marosvásárhely) issue of November 1944: Romanian stamps bearing the effigy of King Michael (Scott Nos. 507-515 and RA26-27), overprinted in black: "ERDÉLY/TRANSILVANIA."

(Postal stamps)

	Denomination	Color
1.	1-leu	purple
2.	2-leu	red orange
3.	5-leu	rose pink
4.	10-leu	deep magenta
5.	16-leu	Prussian blue
6.	20-leu	brown

(Fiscal-postal stamps)

7.	1-leu	rose
8.	2-leu	light brown

Figure 1.

A few copies of the 50-leu black also are known to exist (proofs?).

The stamps were used mostly on registered mail. The cancellation was made in purple ink, by improvised bilingual rubber stamps. There seem to have been at least two of them: one for the main Post Office No. 1 and another for a secondary office. The date was set in by a separate linear rubber stamp (Figure 2).

Figure 2.

The overprint, executed by a local printer in typography, shows a number of errors and irregularities on the 10 x 10 stamp sheets:

TRANSILAANIA (A instead of V) stamp nos. 25 and 27

TSANSILVANIA (S instead of R) stamp no. 35

TRANSILYANIA (Y instead of V) stamp no. 42

TRANSILVANIA (all three "a's" are capitals in small type) stamp nos. 60, 70, 80, and 90

TRANSILVANIA (last two "a's" small capitals) stamp nos. 4, 5, 39, 59, 69, 79, and 89

Romanian postal people entered the City of Târgu-Mureş (Marosvásárhely) shortly after liberation in October 1944, bringing Romanian stamps with them, but were ordered back a few days later. The stamps then were seized by the local authority and overprinted in both Hungarian and Romanian.

2. The Sighet (Máramarossziget) issue of December 1944: Hungarian stamps of 1943-1944 overprinted in black with a circular handstamp; shown in Figure 3. The handstamp was carved in wood by a local artist and applied individually on each stamp, using the black ink normally reserved for canceling. It shows a characteristic fracture (crack) in the M of 'ROMANA' (not shown in Figure 3).

Figure 3.

The 1-, 4-, and 50-fillér stamps may not have been officially issued, although I saw and examined some about 1956, and found the overprints to be genuine. If those were unauthorized, as they now seem to have been, they nevertheless had been struck with the original handstamp allegedly destroyed shortly after use.

Francis Konrád, formerly of Romania, in the late 1940's was the author and editor of the first comprehensive catalogue of the stamps of that country. About 1957, when the impending centenary of the first Moldavian stamp started a surge of related philatelic activity, Mr. Konrád was the prime collaborator in the first catalogue to be published by the state-owned philatelic organization of the Republic of Romania. Censorship difficulties postponed publication of it until 1959. Mr. Konrád has been a Canadian resident since 1964.

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
1	1-fillér	greenish black	601	100
2.	4-fillér	brown	604	100
3.	8-fillér	dark olive green	607	150
4.	10-fillér	light brown	608	250
5.	12-fillér	deep blue green	609	250
6.	18-fillér	dark gray	610	100
7.	20-fillér	chestnut brown	611	250
8.	30-fillér	deep carmine	620	230
9.	50-fillér	blue	614	100
10.	1-pengő	green	616	250

Also, ten of each of Hungary's Red Cross charity stamps of 30+30- and 50+50-filler (Scott Nos. B172 & B173) have been said to exist with the same overprint (proofs?). The stamps allegedly were used up mostly on registered mail. Postage for ordinary mail was paid in cash and a handstamp reading 'Taxa incasata in numerar' (meaning "postage received in cash"), in Romanian only, was used on the letters. I must say I have never been able to see such registered letters nor used copies of the above stamps.

3. The Odorheiu (Székelyudvarhely) issue of December 30, 1944: Hungarian stamps overprinted in black: "Erdély/Transilvania/ -.50P./Romania."

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
1.	0.50-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601	400
2.	0.50-pengő on 3-fillér	ultramarine	603	620
3.	0.50-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604	1,248
4.	1-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604	900
5.	1-pengő on 6-fillér	slate blue	606	98
6.	1-pengő on 10-fillér	light brown	608	278
7.	1-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610	1,720
7a.	1-pengő on 18-fillér	inverted overprint		20
8.	1-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611	160
9.	1-pengő on 30-fillér	carmine red	620	800
10.	2-pengő on 4-fillér	yellow brown	621	40
11.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620	400
12.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	copper red	627	189
13.	2-pengő on 40-fillér	gray black	590	40
14.	2-pengő on 1-pengő	green	616	20

The overprint was applied on strips of twenty stamps (two horizontal rows of ten), the original sheets being separated into five pieces. Some incomplete strips were completed by adding odd stamps pasted up on the back side using the gummed border blanks, and thus some other varieties have been created:

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
I.	0.50-pengő on 5-fillér	vermilion	605	10
II.	1-pengő on 2-fillér	red orange	602	2
III.	1-pengő on 10-fillér	olive brown	583	2

Postal stationery: A number of 18-filler postal cards (2,590) were overprinted at the same time with a slightly modified overprint: "ERDELY/TRANSILVANIA/50 Fillér/ROMANIA." Among the postal cards there were six that had stamps glued on above the imprinted stamp, so another variety was created:

IV.	50-fillér on 4-fillér	yellow brown	Scott No. 621 (Kossuth)

All six cards were obliterated, so no "Kossuth" can exist in mint condition.

The stamps were put on sale by the Odorheiu (Székelyudvarhely) post office on December 30, 1944. Two or three weeks before the stamps were overprinted, two handstamps of the designs (shown in Figures 4 and 5) were used on correspondence, bearing the unilingual Hungarian wording "Eszakerdély 1P (or 2P) Székelyudvarhely — România" (meaning "Northern Transsylvania, 1P, Odorheiu, Romania"), to show that postage was received in cash. The next large Romanian post office, in Sighişoara, refused to forward such correspondence, and so the overprinted stamps described above (Scott Nos. 605, 602, and 583) were hastily ordered in the local printing shop. At the same time a bilingual cancellation device (Figure 6) was improvised to be used on correspondence with the overprinted stamps. The stamps were used until around the end of May 1945.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

N.B.: The cancel in Figure 6 bears the date of July 30, 1945, the last time it was used, to witness a document telling the story of the Odorheiu stamps.

4. The Oradea (Nagyvárad) issue of January 27, 1945: Hungarian stamps of 1943-44 surcharged in black typography (except Nos. 8, 8a, 9b); Figure 7.

Figure 7. Type I, II, and III surcharges.

Nos. 23-30 were intended for use as postage due stamps, but actually were bought up almost completely by philatelists.

The stamps numbered 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, and 22 were the only ones put on sale to the general public at the three post offices in Oradea (Nagyvárad) and some other localities in the vicinity, such as

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number
1.	1-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
2.	1-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604
3.	1-pengő on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
4.	1-pengő on 10-fillér	brown	608
5.	1-pengő on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
6.	1-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
7.	1-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
8.	1-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
9.	2-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
10.	2-pengő on 2-fillér	red orange	602
11.	2-pengő on 3-fillér	ultramarine	603
12.	2-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604
13.	2-pengő on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
14.	2-pengő on 6-fillér	slate blue	606
15.	2-pengő on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
16.	2-pengő on 10-fillér	brown	608
17.	2-pengő on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
18.	2-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
19.	2-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
20.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	bright carmine	613
21.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
22.	2-pengő on 50-fillér	blue	614
23.	2-pengő on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
24.	2-pengő on 80-fillér	brown carmine	630
25.	2-pengő on 1-pengő	green	616
26.	3-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
27.	3-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604
28.	3-pengő on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
29.	3-pengő on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
30.	3-pengő on 10-fillér	brown	608
31.	3-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
32.	3-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
33.	3-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
34.	3-pengő on 50-fillér	blue	614
35.	3-pengő on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
36.	3-pengő on 1-pengő	green	616
37.	5-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
38.	5-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604
39.	5-pengő on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
40.	5-pengő on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
41.	5-pengő on 10-fillér	brown	608
42.	5-pengő on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
43.	5-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
44.	5-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
45.	5-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
46.	5-pengő on 50-fillér	blue	614
47.	5-pengő on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
48.	5-pengő on 1-pengő	green	616
49.	5-pengő on 2-pengő	brown (large size)	571

Similar surcharge on Hungarian postage due stamps on 1941-1944 (thus used for ordinary postage):

50.	3-pengő on 2-fillér	brown red	J151
51.	3-pengő on 4-fillér	brown red	J153
52.	3-pengő on 6-fillér	brown red	J154
53.	3-pengő on 8-fillér	brown red	J155
54.	3-pengő on 10-fillér	brown red	J156
55.	3-pengő on 18-fillér	brown red	J159
56.	3-pengő on 20-fillér	brown red	J160
57.	3-pengő on 30-fillér	brown red	J162
58.	3-pengő on 36-fillér	brown red	J163
59.	5-pengő on 2-fillér	brown red	J151
60.	5-pengő on 4-fillér	brown red	J153
61.	5-pengő on 8-fillér	brown red	J155
62.	5-pengő on 10-fillér	brown red	J156
63.	5-pengő on 18-fillér	brown red	J159
64.	5-pengő on 20-fillér	brown red	J160
65.	5-pengő on 30-fillér	brown red	J162
66.	5-pengő on 36-fillér	brown red	J163

stamps from the post offices and cigar shops where they were usually sold to the public. Incomplete half-sheets were completed by pasting remainders (blocks, strips, single stamps) to fill the empty spaces from behind, using the gummed margins of the sheets for this purpose. Better copies of stamps of this issue usually have gum thus disturbed. There seems to have been no one around with any philatelic knowledge or interest, so no regard was taken of the fact that the paste-ups were of different colors and denominations.

The above list of sixty-six different stamps was compiled by Oradea philatelists late in 1945 and might not be absolutely complete; some varieties are one of a kind. Obviously, No. 49, which does not fit into the pattern of these half-sheets, was overprinted separately in smaller units, probably together with some Hungarian semi-postal stamps of the same size (40 x 28 mm) known to exist with the "Posta Salajului" overprint and considered to be proofs:

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number
I.	1-pengő on 20+20-fillér	brown and red	B171
II.	2-pengő on 30+30-fillér	henna and red	B172
III.	3-pengő on 50+50-fillér	brown violet and red	B173
IV.	5-pengő on 20+20-fillér	brown and red	B171
V.	5-pengő on 30+30-fillér	henna and red	B172
VI.	5-pengő on 50+50-fillér	brown violet and red	B173
VII.	5-pengő on 70+70-fillér	prussian blue and red	B174

The printshop was too small to have fifty identical types of capital "P" or of the figures 1, 2, 3, and 5, so letters "P" (for "Pengő") are thin on positions 51 to 67, and a thick boldface type appears on positions 68 to 100. Two types of "1," six types of "2," six types of "3," and five types of "5" were used. On position 52 an error appears: "Sajajului" instead of "Salajului."

I am speaking of positions 51 to 100 because all the complete or nearly complete half-sheets of fifty ever seen have been identified as being lower half-sheets. No stamp has been identified with certainty as coming from the upper half-sheets: i.e., of positions 1 to 50.

An entry in the books of the Zalău Finance Department, which I saw late in 1945, shows the number of stamps surcharged as follows:

4,400 stamps to 1-pengő
10,000 stamps to 2-pengő
2,103 stamps to 3-pengő
945 stamps to 5-pengő

Slightly less than half of those were officially destroyed as refuse:

1,284 of 1-pengő
3,921 of 2-pengő
1,013 of 3-pengő
423 of 5-pengő

This action might explain why most of the upper half-sheets were missing.

Thus, there were distributed among the eight offices of Sălaj County: Zalău (Zilah); Crasna (Szilagykrasznа); Jibou (Zsibo); Cehul-Silvaniei (Szilágycseh); Tăşnad (Tasnad); Supurul de Jos (Alsoszopor); Şimleul-Silvaniei (Szilágysomlyo); and Mirşid (Nyárszeg), a total of:

Total Stamps	Surcharge	Face Value
3,116	1-pengő	3,116
6,079	2-pengő	12,158
1,090	3-pengő	3,270
522	5-pengő	2,610
Total 10,807		P21,154

The differences of the original Hungarian stamps having been simply ignored, there is no way to find out how many of each variety were printed.

Figure 16 is a reproduction from my 1946 catalogue, *Romania*. On this marking the distance between "P" and the figure "1," "2," "3," or "5" is about 4 mm, instead of the approximate 2 mm of the original surcharge. Prompted by the publicity given to the

surcharged stamps and relatively high values attributed to them in my catalogue, fake surcharges appeared on the Romanian philatelic market short-

3 P

Poşta

Sălajului

Figure 16.

ly afterwards. These can be easily recognized by the exaggerated distance between the "P" and the figure of the value.

The position of the letter "P" (for "Pengő") relative to the letter "a" of the word "Posta" is another characteristic by which later fakes can be distinguished. The distance between two imaginary lines, one going through the right side of "a" and the other through the left side of "P," is slightly variable, but the eccentricity is never more than 1 mm to the right or ⅛ mm to the left. (An exception is position 56 of the 1-pengo surcharge, where only the "P" is far to the left — above the "o" of "Posta.") Any surcharge showing an eccentricity beyond those limits is counterfeit.

Offset printing of the surcharge on the gum side is relatively frequent.

The surcharged stamps sold out in a few weeks, so another issue was prepared and put in use in March 1945, shown in Figures 17 and 18.

Figure 17.

8. Lithographed designs, roughly perforated 11:

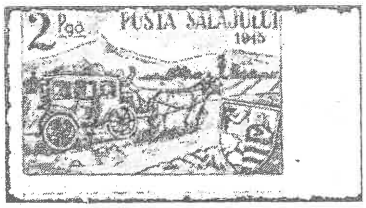


Figure 18.

Nos. 67 and 68 were printed in sheets of 2 x 30 stamps separated by a vertical gutter; No. 69 in sheets of 2 x 25 stamps, separated by a horizontal gutter, the two halves arranged bottom-to-bottom so that the gutter pairs are tete-beche. Nos. 67 and 69 are known to exist imperforate. Plate proofs of No. 69 exist on white paper.

	Number issued:
No. 67	9,780
No. 68	10,230
No. 69	12,175

The unsold remainders were seized after April 9, 1945, by the Romanian postal authorities, and later put on sale at the Bucharest philatelic counter.

Cancellations

For both issues, the Zalău office used an old metallic device from before 1940, then used for money orders only, and with a design similar to a razor blade. A Hungarian-language single-line rubber stamp with "Zilah" and the date also was used. The Mirsid office used pen cancellation; the others improvised circular rubber stamps with the name in Romanian only and the date completed in handwriting. Legitimately used stamps on envelopes and fragments have been seen, but are very scarce.

All the local issues of Northern Transylvania are listed by the Swiss *Zumstein Catalogue*, at the end of the "Romania" section. They are listed also in the 1974 official *Roumanian Catalogue*.

	Denomination	Color	Size
67.	50-filler	orange yellow	23½ x 31¼ mm
68.	1-pengő	blue	23½ x 31¼ mm
69.	2-pengő	violet on yellow paper	39 x 25 mm

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THE SECOND ORADEA ISSUE

Eng. LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel.

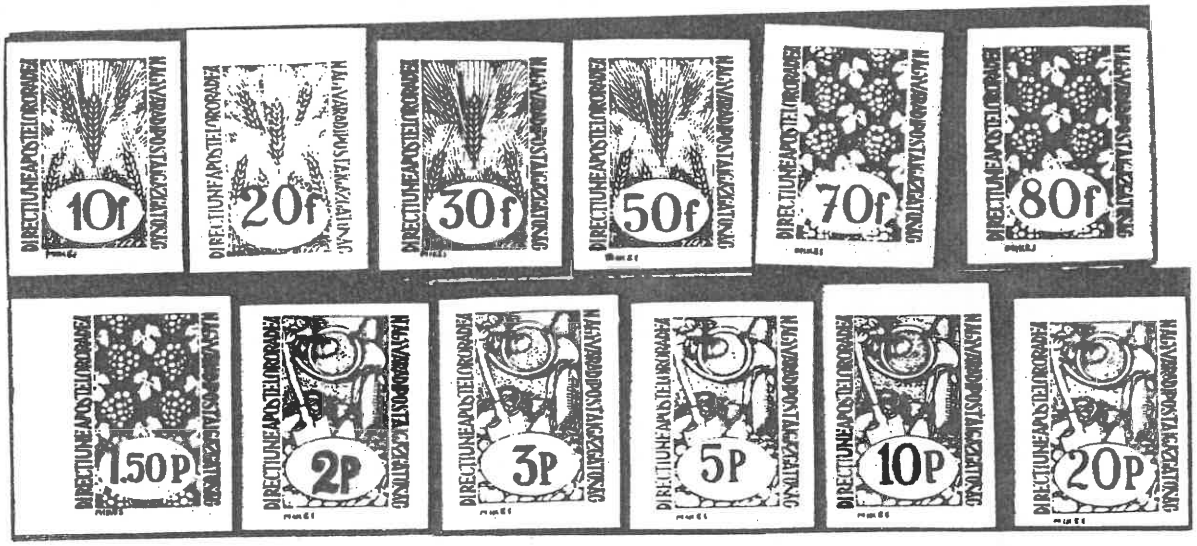


Fig. 1. ESSAYS

According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74 (page 507), the second issue of Oradea, which appeared March 7, 1945, was lithographed on unwatermarked, colored paper, perforated 10½ and imperforate. The size of the design is 21½ x 28½ mm. There are three different designs with a uniform text reading; "DIRECTIUNEA POSTELOR ORADEA - NAGYVARADI POSTA IGAZGATOSAG" (Directorate of Posts, Oradea).

The printing was done in 2 operations: first the design, then the value. Therefore, the value is sometimes a shade darker than the rest of the stamp.

There are 15 monocolor (perforated and imperforate) and one bicolor value (only imperforate) as follows:

10 f. dark brown on brown paper
20 f. ultramarine on blue paper
30 f. brown on orange paper
40 f. violet on light violet paper
50 f. dark brown on green paper
60 f. red on rose paper
70 f. green on light violet paper
80 f. red on orange paper
1 P. carmine on white paper
1.50 P. red on green paper
2 P. light brown on yellowish paper
3 P. grey on rose paper
5 P. olive on blue paper
10 P. violet on orange paper
20 P. green on green paper
10 f. dark brown and red on brown paper.
20 P. green on green paper
and
10 f. dark brown and red on brown paper.

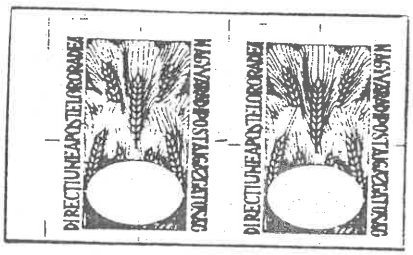
Recorded varieties are:

10 f. printing visible on the back,
70 f. designer's name (MIKES) retouched and tilted to right (position 25 of each half sheet pane),
1 P. on thin paper,
1 P. on thick, yellowish paper.

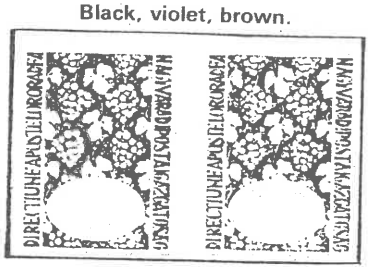
All were printed in two panes of 60 (6 x 10) with gutter pairs in the center, with 2,400 complete sets printed, but only 1,200 of the bicolored 10 f. The 10, 20, 30, 50 f., 1, 1.50, 2 and 3 P. perforated stamps were printed in larger quantities (some of them up to 500,000) and were sold until the end of April 1945 at the post offices (in Oradea, Satu Mare, Bihor, etc.) for postal usage. Complete sets were sold at the Oradea philatelic counter giving one bicolored 10 f. stamp with every 2 perforated and 2 imperforate sets.

Furthermore, color proofs exist on ungummed, (grey) white paper, for all values (Fig. 1) except the 40 f., 60 f., 1 P. and the bicolored 10 f., (120 for each stamp, except the 1.50 P. for which 240 proofs - 2 double panes - were made), as well as essays without denominations (Fig. 2), and proofs with the denomination doubly printed (Fig. 3).

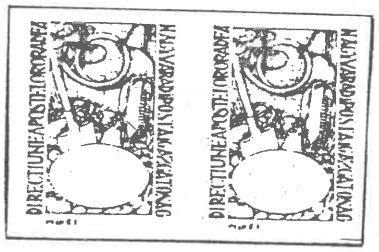
Besides these essays and proofs, other types exist in very small quantities, probably made for pure typographical reasons. In addition to the above, already



Black, violet, brown.

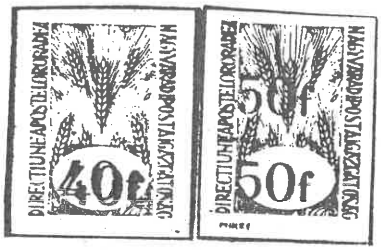


Light red



Light brown

Fig. 2. ESSAYS WITHOUT DENOMINATION.



Violet Brown

Red

Fig. 3. DOUBLE DENOMINATION.

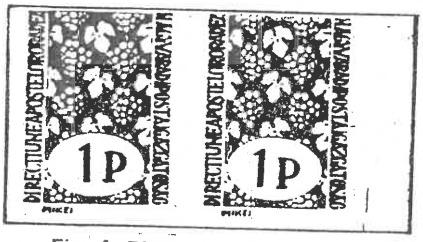


Fig. 4. Black on yellow paper.

Fig. 5. PROOF. BLACK ON LIGHT GREY PAPER.

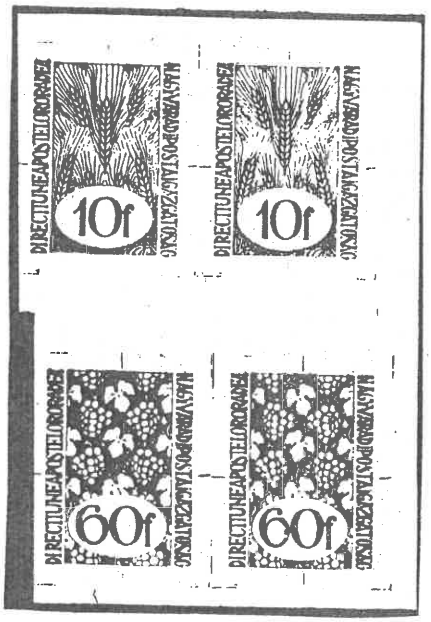


Fig. 6. COMBINATION PROOF.

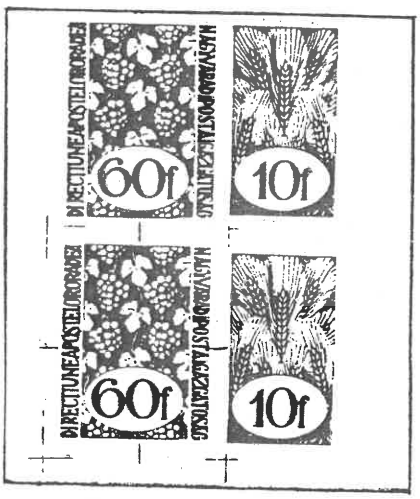


Fig. 7. COMBINATION PROOF.

described in the Romanian Catalogue, some of these are herewith illustrated:

Fig. 4 shows the 1 P. proof. In black, it is printed on a semi-thick cardboard, yellow surface-colored paper.

Fig. 5 shows the 2 P. proof. It is black on light grey paper.

Fig. 6 presents a combination 10 f. and 60 f. proof, printed on the same sheet. They are black on light grey paper. Probably each row of 10 f. is followed by a row of 60 f. proofs.

Fig. 7 presents another combination 10 f. and 60 f. proof. They are gold on grey paper. While, probably each column of 60 f. is followed by a column of 10 f. proofs, these differ in that on the 10 f. proof the bilingual text is missing, having only the center design with the denomination.

On the proofs presented in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, and to some extent on the essays illustrated in Fig. 2, markings designating the margins, the frame and the center can be seen.

An error exists, consisting of a corner block of four stamps of 10 f. printed over a folded corner, in such a manner that what is missing on the front side is printed on the reverse.

HOW DID PRINCE CAROL'S APRIL 1, 1869, LETTERS REACH GERMANY?

Gabriel Sassower

In the preambles to his informative article about the three lower values of the 1869 "international issue" (Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 2, 1980), Dr. L.N. Cristea tells us that on 1 April 1869, the day the said issue came into use, Prince Carol himself posted at the Central Post Office in Bucharest the first ordinary and the first registered letters, addressed to his family in Germany; in continuation, the author says: "It remains to be discovered how these letters reached their destination in Bavaria, given the fact that the convention with the "German Confederation" did not come into force until July 1, 1869..." To start with, although immaterial this is incorrect in the sense that the convention was with the North German Confederation, which did not include the postal services of Bavaria anyway; secondly, the solution of the problem is very simple, may I say and it does result from the postal convention between, I quote, "...the Government of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty and the government of His Highness the Prince of the United Principalities", being, of course, the well known convention with Austria-Hungary, signed at Vienna on 24 July 1868 and operative from 1 April 1869. Once a convention had been established with a neighbouring country, in this case Austria-Hungary, the gap was opened for international mail, in the sense that the partner to the agreement acted as an intermediary

R. Phil. Stud., N.Y., 1980, IV, w.4.

LOCAL POSTS IN NORTHERN TRANSYLVANIA

George Pataki

On August 30, 1940, the "Vienna Diktat", arrived at through German-Italian arbitration, gave Northern Transylvania to Hungary. Forced by various circumstances, Romania had become an Axis ally and on December 12, 1941, even went so far as declaring war on the United States. Interestingly, the United States did not declare war on Romania until June 6, 1942. Later, on August 23,1944, Romania joined the coalition against Nazi Germany. On September 21, 1944, the Romanian armies began the battle to recapture Northern Transylvania. On October 12, 1944 they entered Oradea. By October 25 1944, when they arrived at Carei and Satu Mare, the entire Northern Transylvania had reverted to Romania.

"De jure," Northern Transylvania came under Romanian jurisdiction on February 10, 1947 (the signing of the Peace Treaty between Romanian and the Allied and Associated Powers, in Paris) but the Romanian posts were already "de facto" servicing the area in October-December 1944. Local authorities, independently one from another, started postal services. They used overprinted Hungarian stamps (in Odorhei, Oradea, Salaj, Sighet and Tirgu-Mures), overprinted Romanian stamps (in Tirgu-Mures) or they printed new stamps (Nasaud, Oradea, Salaj).

This article deals with two of the three issues that bear new designs (not overprints); the **ORADEA** issues is described elsewhere in this bulletin by Ladislau Rothman of Israel.

NASAUD. A single stamp type was issued in February 1945. These were printed in sheetlets of 8 stamps in two rows, each with four stamps. The top margin of the four stamps in the first row is imperforate. They were printed and used in the city of Bistrita. The stamps are black on white ribbed (textured), ungummed paper, and are perforated 11½. The text in Romanian reads: "POSTA, JUD. NASAUD" (Posts, Nasaud County) on the top and the denomination, in Hungarian currency in use: "2 PENGO" on the bottom.

The center design is stylized and it shows some fruits, leaves and a lion's head. The size of a stamp perforated on all its four sides is 27 x 42.5 mm. and of the sheetlet of 8 stamps with the blank margins is 146 x 100 mm.

Genuinely postally used Nasaud stamps are very scarce; most of the "used" stamps to be found have been favor cancelled.

There are not listed by Scott but are fully described in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974.

SALAJ. Three types of stamps were issued in March 1945. Two share the same design (50 fileri, from yellow brown to bright orange on white paper, and, 1 Pengo, from light blue to dark blue on white paper). The other design bears a 2 Pengo face value and it is printed in violet red on yellowish ochre paper. The gum is white. the stamps were lithographed and display a rough perforation 11. The text, "POSTA SALAJULUI 1945", is in Romanian. While the denominations are in Hungarian currency, the spelling of "fileri" conforms with the Romanian orthography.

The 50 fileri and 1 Pengo stamps show a rural mailman in a national costume typical for Salaj county, and their size is 27 x 34 mm. The 2 Pengo stamp shows a mailcoach, and its size is 42.5 x 29 mm. Both designs also display the coat-of-arms of the county of Salaj.

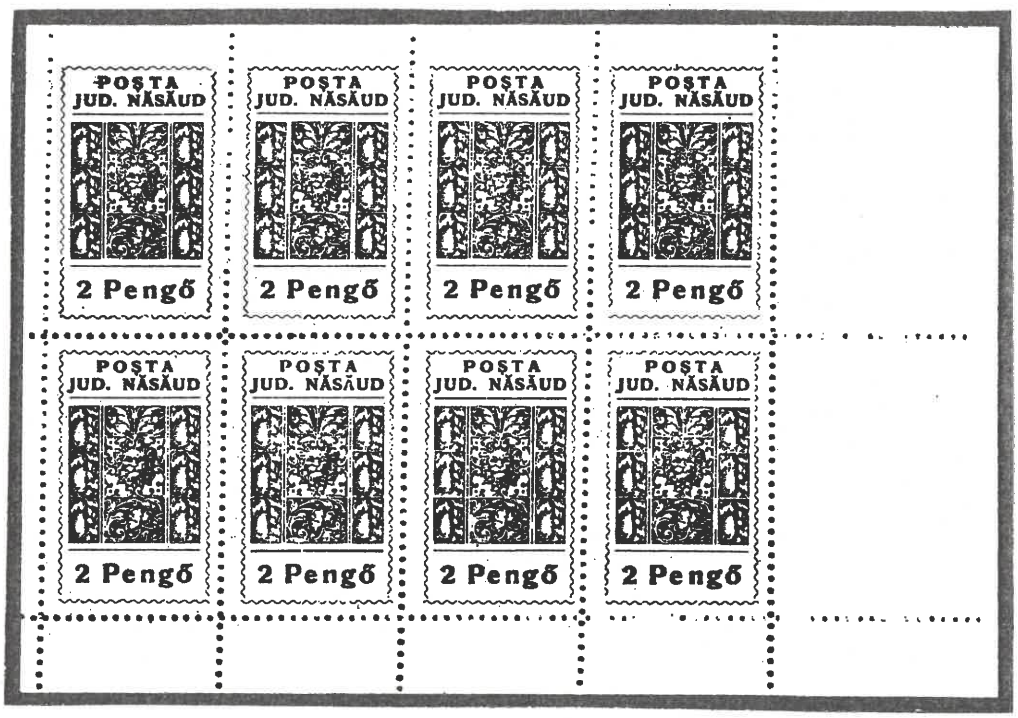
The stamps were printed by Seres, a private printing company in Zalau. They were ordered by the local finance department, subordinated to the prefect's office.

The 50 fileri and the 1 Pengo were printed in sheets of 2 panes of 30, every pane having six rows, each with five stamps, and with a gutter between the panes.

The 2 Pengo stamps were printed in sheets of 2 panes of 25, every pane having five rows, each with five stamps. The bottom row of five stamps are imperforate at bottom. The stamps of the 2 panes are head-to-head, with a gutter between tnem, therefore with five tete-beche gutter-pairs in the center.

Imperforates of the 50 fileri are known, as well as 2 Pengo proofs on white paper, perforated only horizontally (one sheet of 50 stamps).

According to F. Konrad ("Romania, Catalog Filatelic, 1946", page 45), the edition of this issues is as follows:



NASAUD sheetlet

50 fileri ..... Printed: 10,920
Destroyed: 1,140
Remained: 9,780
1 Pengo..... Printed: 41,040
Destroyed: 30,810
Remained: 10,230
2 Pengo..... Printed: 49,900
Destroyed: 30,810
Remained: 12,175.

Therefore, less than 10,000 complete sets of this issue remained after the destruction of the leftovers, which was carried out, after their withdrawal, by the finance administration of Zalau.

This issue is also not listed by Scott but is presented in detail in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974.

I. Micu in Filatelia, No. 9/1963, describes a typographical variety of the 1 Pengo stamp (the first stamp on the last row of the right pane) has a dot under the letter "S" in "POSTA".

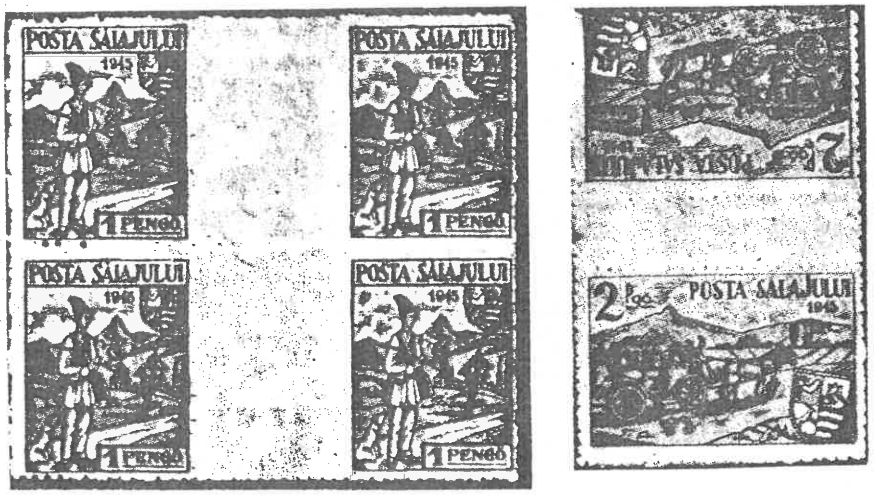
In Zalau, these stamps were cancelled in black with an old Romanian metalic canceler used for money orders. It was also reported the use of a linear rubber canceler with the Hungarian name of the locality "ZILAH" and the date, both in violet ink.

In Simleul Silvaniei a rubber canceler was used with violet ink. The cancel, single circle type, 28 mm in diameter with a text that reads: "Posta Salajului" at the top, "OF. PTT. Simleul Silvaniei" in the center in three lines, and "1945" at the bottom, between 2 small sixpointed stars. The date was marked in violet by a separate linear canceler.

The post offices of Cehul Silvaniei, Crasna, Jibou, Tasnad and Supurul de Jos used similar cancelers but the date was handwritten in ink. The office in Mirsid, not having its own canceler, cancelled the stamps by hand, in ink.

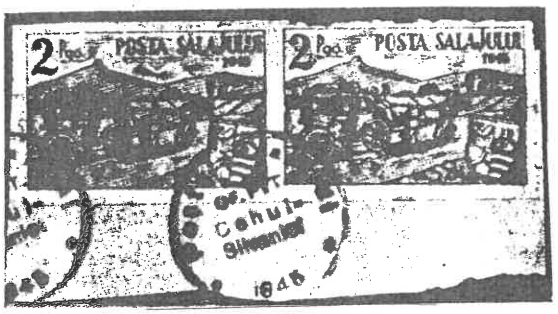
Postally used Salaj stamps are very scarce. Here too, most of the "used" stamps are actually favor cancelled. Unaddressed covers are known, bearing all three of these stamps, each neatly favor cancelled in violet ink with the cancel used in Simleul Silvaniei, and a separate linear date marking, in violet ink, ex: "15 MART. 1945".

POSTA SALAJULUI 1945



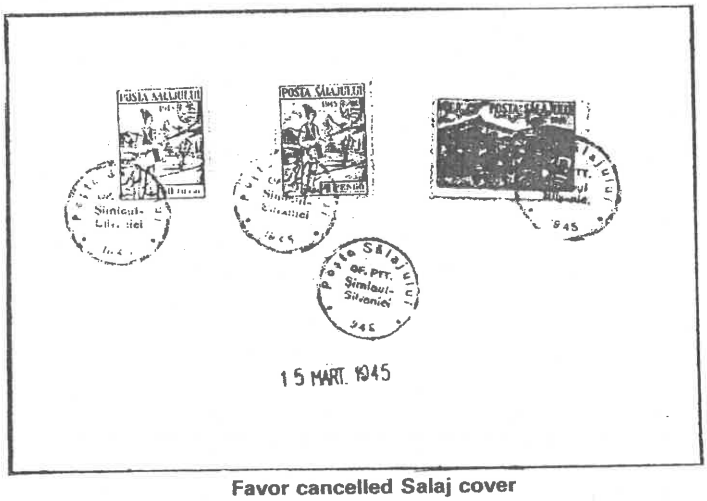
STAMPS WITH GUTTER

Dot under S



Postally used Salaj stamps

Postally used SALAJ cover



Favor cancelled Salaj cover